POLICE COMICS

AUGUST No. 69

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QUALITY COMIC GROUP

CAN PLASTIC MAN OUTSTRETCH STRETCHO?



WEBCOMIC UNIVERSE.COM

FORMERLY MILITARY COMICS

MODERN COMICS

POLICE COMICS

FEATURE COMICS

SMASH COMICS

CRACK COMICS

THESE TITLES ARE TOPS!



LOOK FOR THE SEAL OF QUALITY

QUALITY COMIC GROUP

PACKED WITH

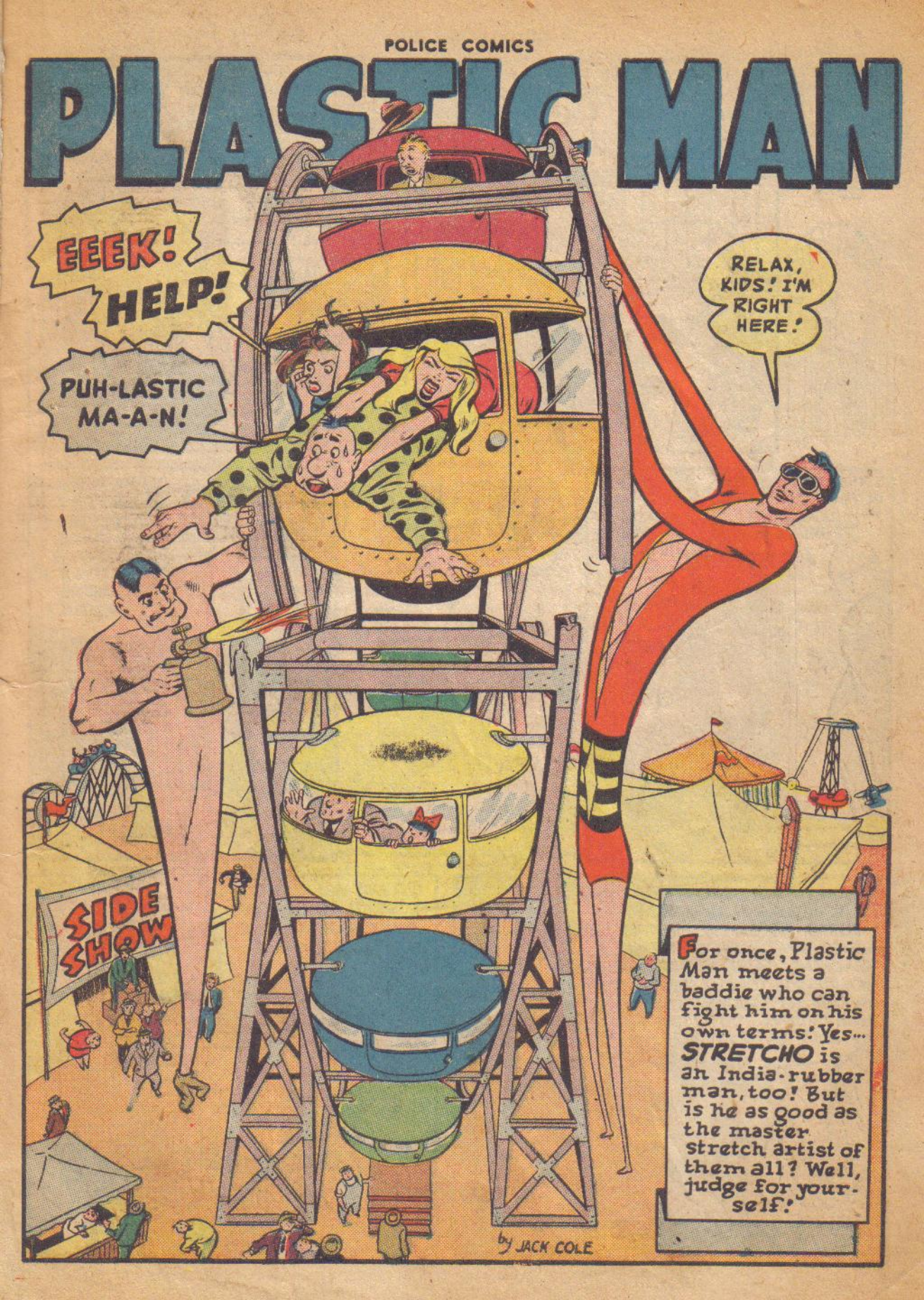
ACTION, LAUGHS AND THRILLS!

HIT COMICS

NATIONAL COMICS

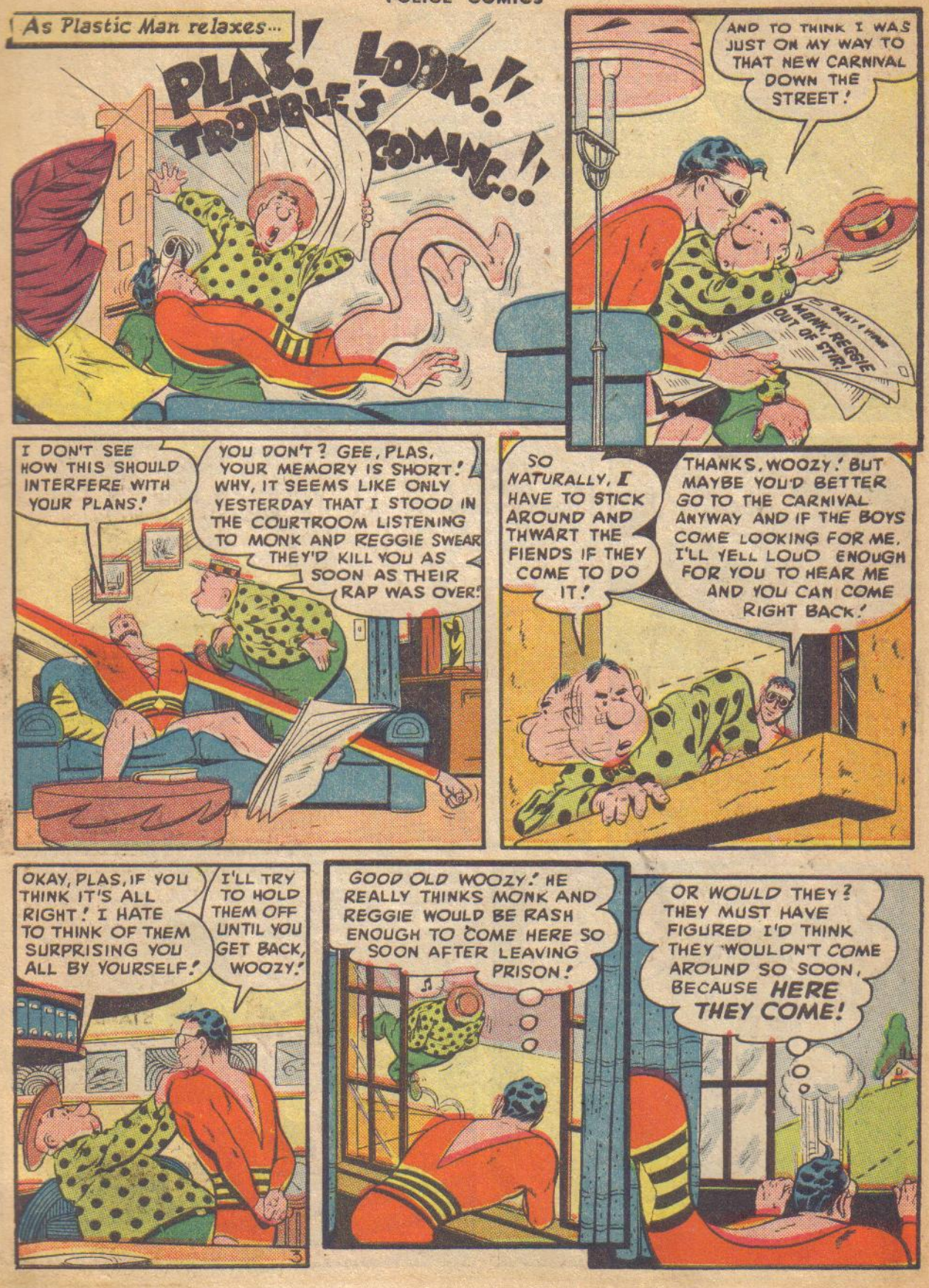
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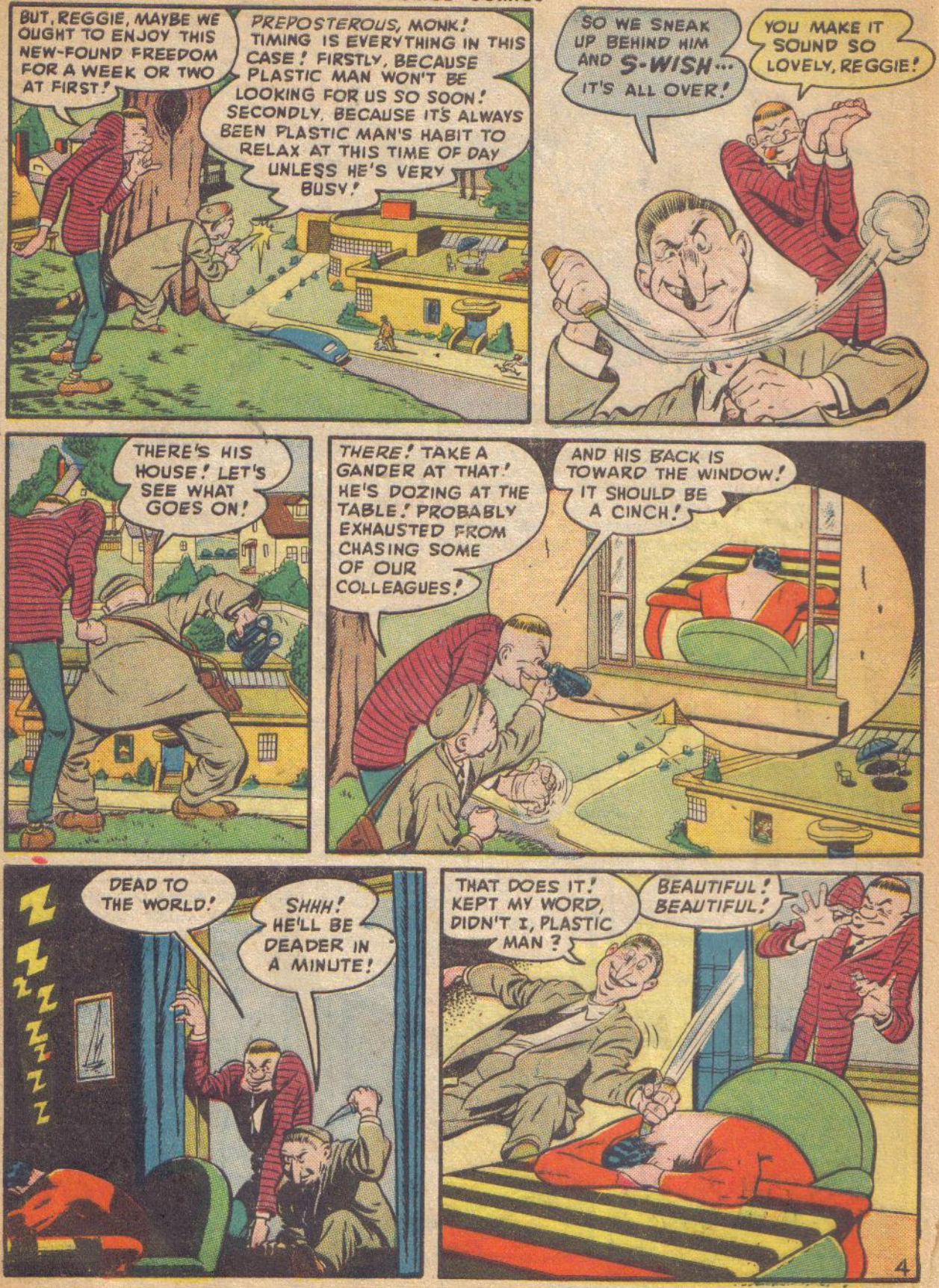
PLASTIC MAN

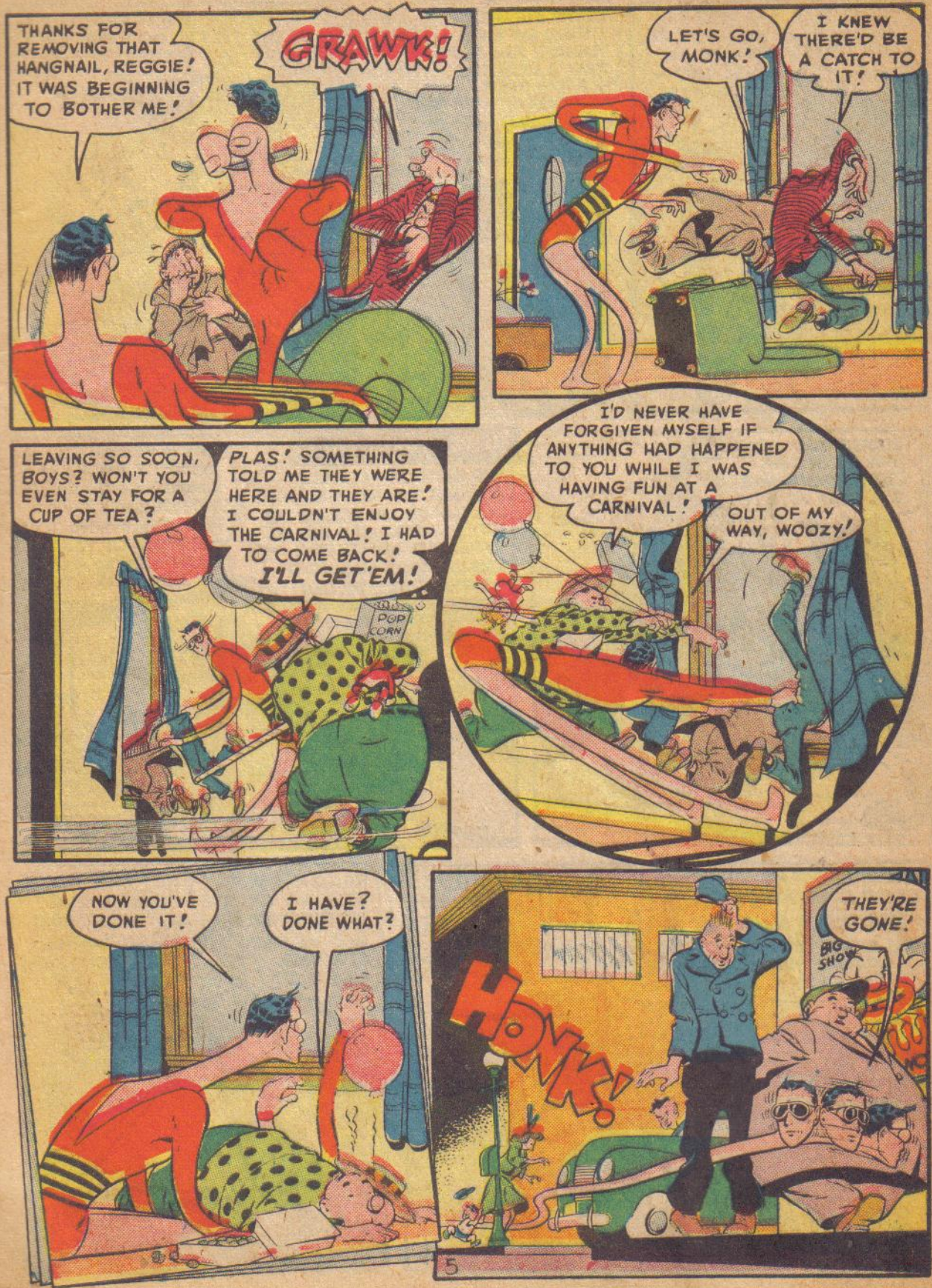


For once, Plastic Man meets a baddie who can fight him on his own terms! Yes... **STRETCHO** is an India-rubber man, too! But is he as good as the master stretch artist of them all? Well, judge for yourself!


In the warden's office at...
STATE PRISON
WELL, BOYS, YOU'VE BEEN WITH US A LONG TIME! I ALMOST HATE TO SEE YOU GO!
OH, WARDEN, BELIEVE US, ME AND REGGIE ALMOST HATE TO LEAVE!
CRIME RECORD OF MONK MAHAN
CRIME RECORD OF REGGIE FILE
ARSON
CAPTURED BY PLASTIC MAN
YEAH, HUH? WELL, PLASTIC MAN PUT YOU HERE ONCE BEFORE AND UNLESS YOU BEHAVE YOURSELVES, HE'LL DO IT AGAIN! SO, IF YOU REALLY LIKED IT HERE, JUST START ANNOYING HIM!
BUT, WARDEN, ME AND MONK DON'T LIKE IT HERE THAT MUCH!
I THOUGHT NOT! IN THAT CASE, GO STRAIGHT! UNDERSTAND?
SURE! SURE! YOU TOOK THE WORDS OUT OF OUR MOUTHS!
BESIDES, WE LIKE PLASTIC MAN! WE WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO OFFEND HIM!
UNLESS Y'CALL A LITTLE THING LIKE CUTTIN' HIS THROAT OFFENDING HIM!
AW, REGGIE! CAN'T WE DO SOMETHING JUST A LITTLE MORE PAINFUL?
MONK, WITH A CHARACTER AS TOUGH AS PLASTIC MAN, Y'GOTTA BE SATISFIED WITH A NICE, SIMPLE PIECE OF REVENGE! SURE, IT'D BE WONDERFUL TO CUT HIM UP INTO LITTLE QUARTER INCH CHUNKS, BUT Y'CAN'T HAVE EVERYTHING!
GOSH! WE ALMOST MISSED YOU, BOYS! WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?
PRESS
JUST SAY PLASTIC MAN HAS MADE US SEE THE ERROR OF OUR WAYS AND NOW WE'RE OUT TO MAKE AN HONEST STAKE!


As Plastic Man relaxes...
PLAS! LOOK!! TROUBLE'S COMING!!
AND TO THINK I WAS JUST ON MY WAY TO THAT NEW CARNIVAL DOWN THE STREET!
HMMM, REGGIE OUT OF STIR!
I DON'T SEE HOW THIS SHOULD INTERFERE WITH YOUR PLANS!
YOU DON'T? GEE, PLAS, YOUR MEMORY IS SHORT! WHY, IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY THAT I STOOD IN THE COURTROOM LISTENING TO MONK AND REGGIE SWEAR THEY'D KILL YOU AS SOON AS THEIR RAP WAS OVER!
SO NATURALLY, I HAVE TO STICK AROUND AND THWART THE FIENDS IF THEY COME TO DO IT!
THANKS, WOOZY! BUT MAYBE YOU'D BETTER GO TO THE CARNIVAL ANYWAY AND IF THE BOYS COME LOOKING FOR ME, I'LL YELL LOUD ENOUGH FOR YOU TO HEAR ME AND YOU CAN COME RIGHT BACK!
OKAY, PLAS, IF YOU THINK IT'S ALL RIGHT! I HATE TO THINK OF THEM SURPRISING YOU ALL BY YOURSELF!
I'LL TRY TO HOLD THEM OFF UNTIL YOU GET BACK, WOOZY!
GOOD OLD WOOZY! HE REALLY THINKS MONK AND REGGIE WOULD BE RASH ENOUGH TO COME HERE SO SOON AFTER LEAVING PRISON!
OR WOULD THEY? THEY MUST HAVE FIGURED I'D THINK THEY WOULDN'T COME AROUND SO SOON, BECAUSE HERE THEY COME!


BUT, REGGIE, MAYBE WE OUGHT TO ENJOY THIS NEW-FOUND FREEDOM FOR A WEEK OR TWO AT FIRST!
PREPOSTEROUS, MONK! TIMING IS EVERYTHING IN THIS CASE! FIRSTLY, BECAUSE PLASTIC MAN WON'T BE LOOKING FOR US SO SOON! SECONDLY, BECAUSE IT'S ALWAYS BEEN PLASTIC MAN'S HABIT TO RELAX AT THIS TIME OF DAY UNLESS HE'S VERY BUSY!
SO WE SNEAK UP BEHIND HIM AND S-WISH... IT'S ALL OVER!
YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO LOVELY, REGGIE!
THERE'S HIS HOUSE! LET'S SEE WHAT GOES ON!
THERE! TAKE A GANDER AT THAT! HE'S DOZING AT THE TABLE! PROBABLY EXHAUSTED FROM CHASING SOME OF OUR COLLEAGUES!
AND HIS BACK IS TOWARD THE WINDOW! IT SHOULD BE A CINCH!
ZZZZZZZ
DEAD TO THE WORLD!
SHHH! HE'LL BE DEADER IN A MINUTE!
THAT DOES IT! KEPT MY WORD, DIDN'T I, PLASTIC MAN?
BEAUTIFUL! BEAUTIFUL!

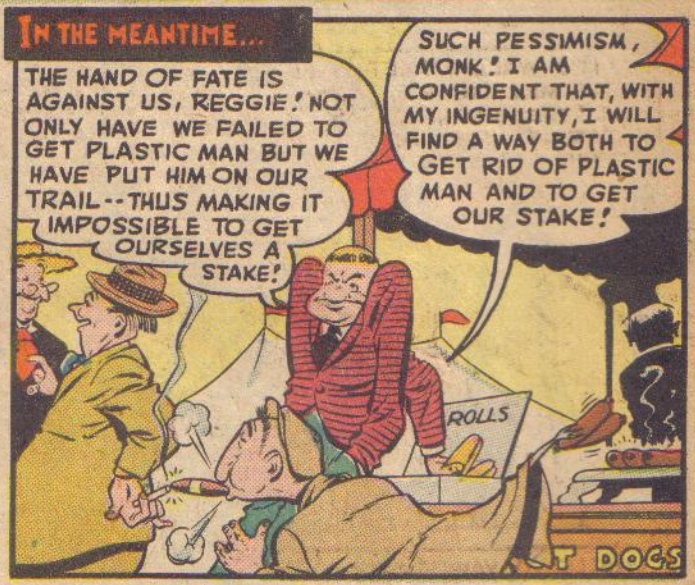

THANKS FOR REMOVING THAT HANGNAIL, REGGIE! IT WAS BEGINNING TO BOTHER ME!
GRAWK!
LET'S GO, MONK!
I KNEW THERE'D BE A CATCH TO IT!
LEAVING SO SOON, BOYS? WON'T YOU EVEN STAY FOR A CUP OF TEA?
PLAS! SOMETHING TOLD ME THEY WERE HERE AND THEY ARE! I COULDN'T ENJOY THE CARNIVAL! I HAD TO COME BACK!
I'LL GET 'EM!
POP CORN
I'D NEVER HAVE FORGIVEN MYSELF IF ANYTHING HAD HAPPENED TO YOU WHILE I WAS HAVING FUN AT A CARNIVAL!
OUT OF MY WAY, WOOZY!
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT!
I HAVE? DONE WHAT?
HONK!
THEY'RE GONE!
BIG SHOT
5

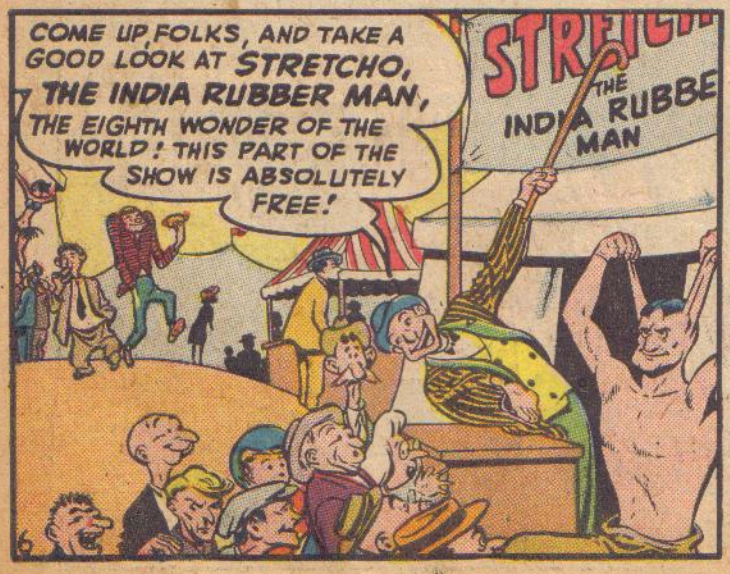

ANYWAY, PLAS, THEY DIDN'T HARM YOU!
IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU, I'D HAVE HAD THOSE TWO CUTTHROATS BEHIND BARS BY NOW!


THAT'S GRATITUDE! I RISK MY LIFE TO SAVE YOU AND THAT'S HOW YOU SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION! I SHOULD HAVE STAYED AT THE CARNIVAL!
YOU CERTAINLY SHOULD HAVE!
CARNIVA


IF THAT'S THE WAY HE FEELS ABOUT IT, I'LL GO RIGHT BACK THERE!
KING CARNI


REGGIE AND MONK MAY BE IN THIS CROWD SOMEWHERE! I'LL STAY WITH IT!


IN THE MEANTIME...
THE HAND OF FATE IS AGAINST US, REGGIE! NOT ONLY HAVE WE FAILED TO GET PLASTIC MAN BUT WE HAVE PUT HIM ON OUR TRAIL--THUS MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET OURSELVES A STAKE!
SUCH PESSIMISM, MONK! I AM CONFIDENT THAT, WITH MY INGENUITY, I WILL FIND A WAY BOTH TO GET RID OF PLASTIC MAN AND TO GET OUR STAKE!
ROLLS
T DOGS


COME UP, FOLKS, AND TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT STRETCHO, THE INDIA RUBBER MAN, THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD! THIS PART OF THE SHOW IS ABSOLUTELY FREE!
THE INDIA RUBBE MAN


REGGIE, DON'T TELL ME YOU ARE INTERESTED IN CIRCUS FREAKS AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
NOT EXACTLY, MONK! I WAS JUST WONDERING ABOUT THAT GUY, STRETCHO!

WONDERING WHAT?

WONDERING HOW GOOD HE IS!

WONDERFUL··· WONDERFUL··· ISN'T IT, MY DEAR? EGAD, I LOVE TO WATCH A SIDESHOW! REMINDS ME OF MY YOUTH ··· ER·· AHEM ···I MEAN WHEN I WAS A LITTLE YOUNGER!

REGGIE, CURB YOUR INTEREST IN FREAKS FOR THE MOMENT AND REST YOUR ORBS ON THE PROSPECT!

CRIPES! IT'S WALL STREET WELLS, THE MILLIONAIRE GAMBLER! THEY SAY HE NEVER CARRIES LESS THAN A HUNDRED GRAND FOR POCKET MONEY!

FUNNY HOW THAT OCCURRED TO BOTH OF US!

BUT WE'VE GOT TO BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL! PLASTIC MAN IS UNDOUBTEDLY STILL LOOKING FOR US AND IF WE CAUSE ANY SORT OF COMMOTION, HE WILL BE ON THE SCENE IN A MINUTE!

NEVER FEAR, MONK! I WILL DO THIS WITH FINESSE!

WILD WOMA OF BORN

OH, MR. WELLS, YOU TAKE ME TO THE MOST EXCITING PLACES!

YAWP! REGGIE, DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

WHETHER YOU DO OR NOT, ONLY PLASTIC MAN CAN STRETCH HIS ARM OUT THAT WAY--- AND WE'D BETTER MOVE FAST!

BE CALM, MONK, AND LOOK WHO OWNS THE HAND! IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT PLASTIC MAN IS NOT A DIP! BUT STRETCHO--- THAT'S A DIFFERENT STORY!

WHY---THE DIRTY CROOK! HE'S MUSCLING IN ON US!

THIS CALLS FOR A STRATEGIC MOVE!

At that moment...

I'LL CHECK THE SPOTS WHERE THERE ARE BIG CROWDS GATHERED!

?

FREAK OF NATURE

WILD WEST RODEO

KING CARNIVAL

THE STRATEGY IS CLEAR IN MY MIND NOW!

OWW!

STRETCH RUBBER MAN

WHAP!

ANYTHING WRONG, STRETCHO?

OW-W! ER... NOTHING MUCH! I JUST TWISTED THE EIGHT A LITTLE TOO HARD!

SEE, FOLKS.... HE'S MAKING TWO EIGHTS OUT OF THE ONE!

AMAZING!

QUICK, NOW, REGGIE! IF STRETCHO SPOTS US, HE'LL KNOW WHY HIS HAND HURTS AND HE MAY LOUSE US UP!

MONK, THIS JOB IS SO SIMPLE IT WOULD NOT BE THE SORT OF THING I WOULD CONDESCEND TO...WERE IT NOT FOR THE HUNDRED GRAND INVOLVED!

THERE THEY ARE --- AND IN ACTION, TOO!

RUBBER MAN

PARDON ME, SIR! YOUR WALLET'S SHOWING!

HUH?

ATTEMPTED MURDER TWO HOURS AFTER LEAVING PRISON AND GRAND LARCENY A HALF HOUR LATER! YOU BOYS SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN YOUR CELLS!

YOU'RE PUTTING THE WRONG INTER-PRETATION ON ALL THIS, PLASTIC MAN!

INDIA RUBBER MAN

IT'S PLASTIC MAN! NOBODY CAN STRETCH LIKE HIM!

STRETCHO, THAT CRUMB IS HOGGING OUR ACT!

JO-JO

BEAT IT, YOU AMATEUR! THIS IS A CLOSED SHOP!

SAY, YOU'RE NOT BAD! YOU MUST TELL ME HOW YOU DO IT SOMETIME --- BUT RIGHT NOW I MUST ASK YOU TO GET OUT OF MY WAY!

ODA 10¢

OH -- A WISE GUY, EH?

HOT DIGGETY! THIS'LL BE THE BATTLE OF THE CENTURY --- AND FREE, TOO!

USE YOUR HANDS ON HIM, PLAS! HE'S A SUCKER FOR A LEFT!

SMART SUGGESTION, REGGIE, BUT I CAN'T BEAR TO LEAVE YOU AND MONK!

NOT THAT AN EXTRA PAIR OF HANDS WOULDN'T BE *USEFUL* RIGHT NOW!

HO-HUM... GUESS I'VE COVERED THE WHOLE CARNIVAL NOW! OH-OH! SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE HAPPENING HERE!

GIRLIE SHOW

PLASTIC MAN! THEY'VE GANGED UP ON YOU!

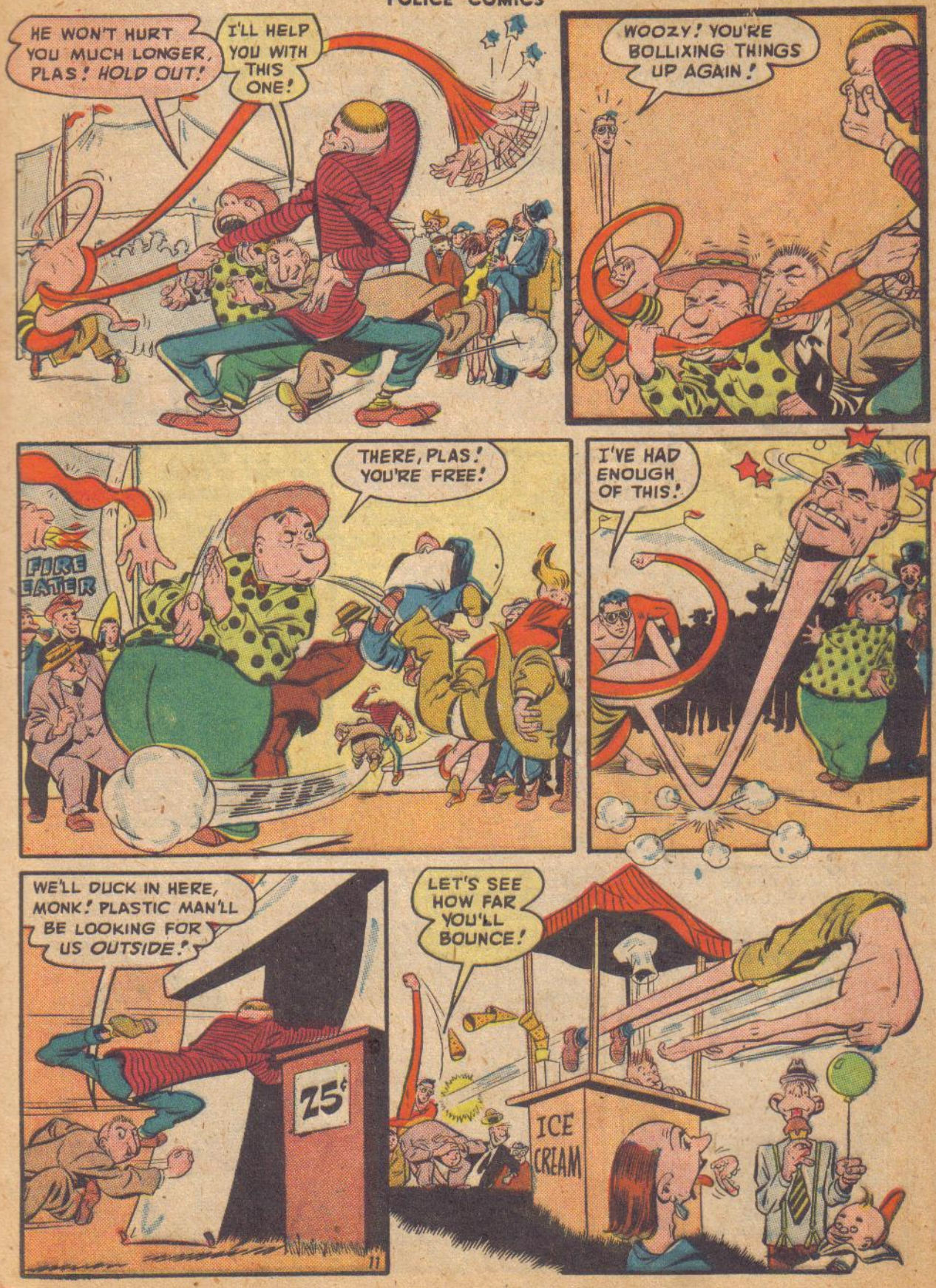
UNFAIR! YOU'RE HOLDING HIS HANDS WHILE HE STRUGGLES WITH THAT --- THAT *SERPENT!*

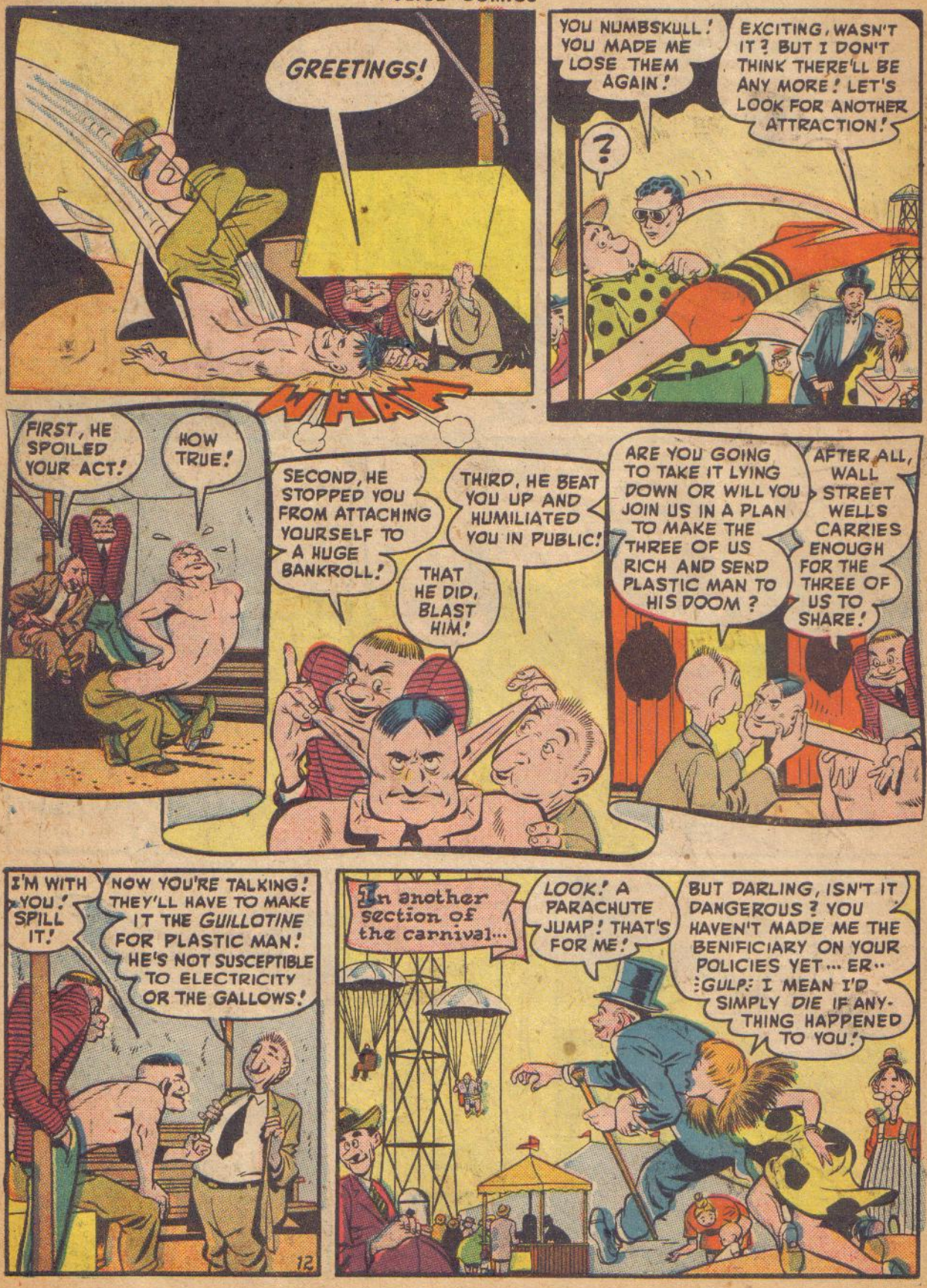
AREN'T WE NASTY MEN?

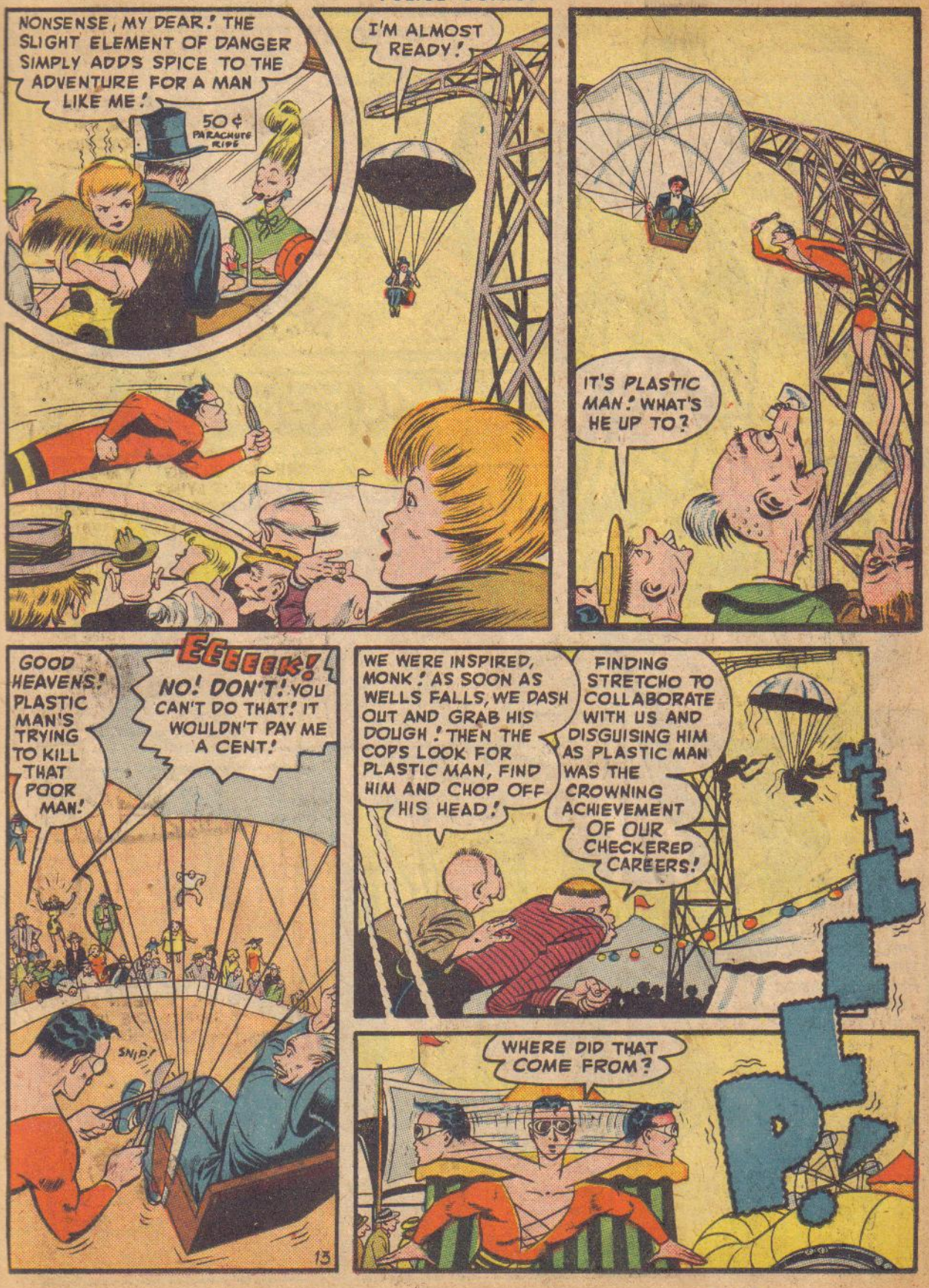
I'LL FREE YOU, PLAS!

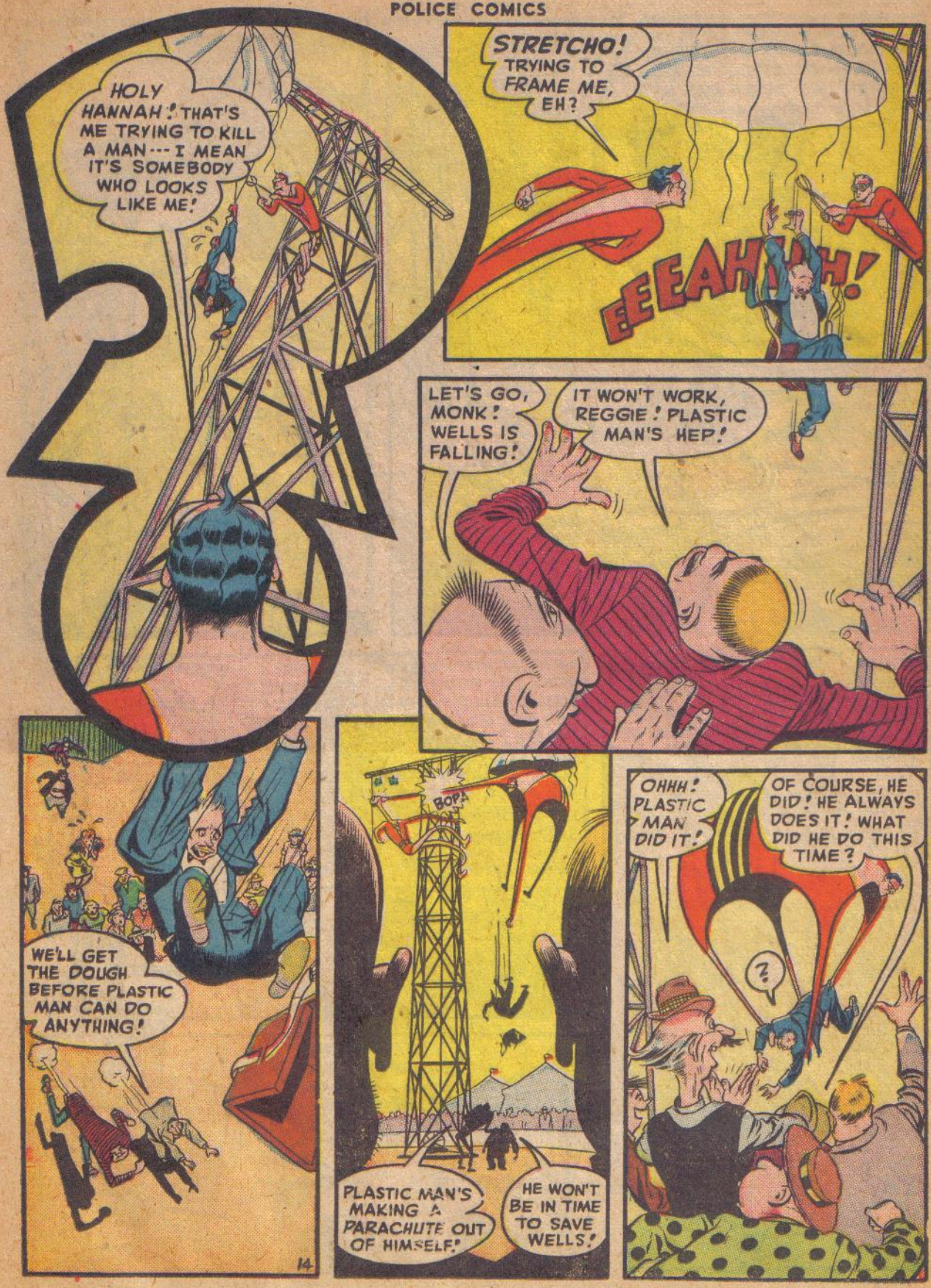
HERE!

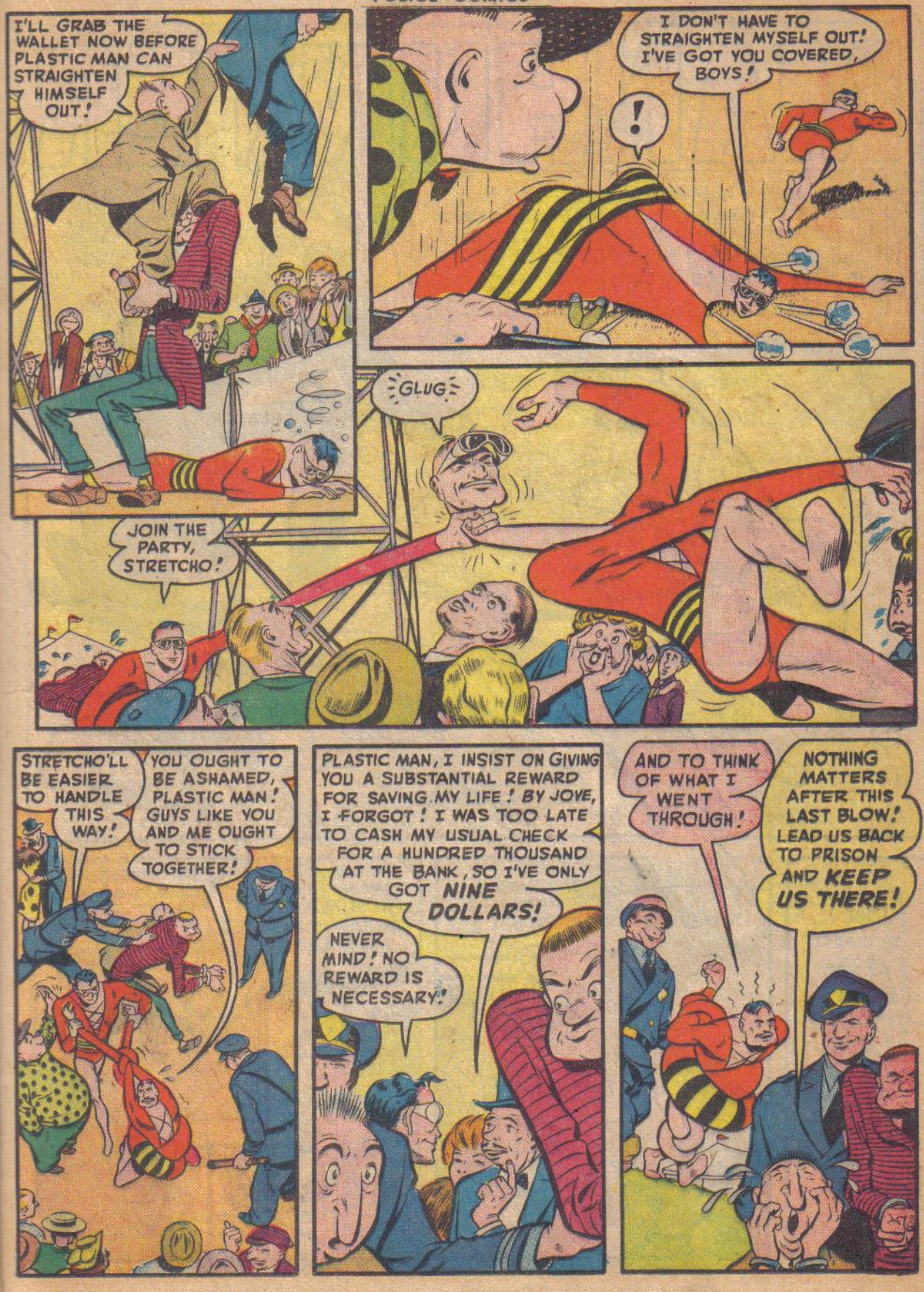
OW-W!


HE WON'T HURT YOU MUCH LONGER, PLAS! HOLD OUT!
I'LL HELP YOU WITH THIS ONE!
WOOZY! YOU'RE BOLLIXING THINGS UP AGAIN!
THERE, PLAS! YOU'RE FREE!
FIRE EATER
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS!
WE'LL DUCK IN HERE, MONK! PLASTIC MAN'LL BE LOOKING FOR US OUTSIDE!
25¢
LET'S SEE HOW FAR YOU'LL BOUNCE!
ICE CREAM


GREETINGS!
WHAT
YOU NUMBSKULL! YOU MADE ME LOSE THEM AGAIN!
EXCITING, WASN'T IT? BUT I DON'T THINK THERE'LL BE ANY MORE! LET'S LOOK FOR ANOTHER ATTRACTION!
?
FIRST, HE SPOILED YOUR ACT!
HOW TRUE!
SECOND, HE STOPPED YOU FROM ATTACHING YOURSELF TO A HUGE BANKROLL!
THIRD, HE BEAT YOU UP AND HUMILIATED YOU IN PUBLIC!
THAT HE DID, BLAST HIM!
ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE IT LYING DOWN OR WILL YOU JOIN US IN A PLAN TO MAKE THE THREE OF US RICH AND SEND PLASTIC MAN TO HIS DOOM?
AFTER ALL, WALL STREET WELLS CARRIES ENOUGH FOR THE THREE OF US TO SHARE!
I'M WITH YOU! SPILL IT!
NOW YOU'RE TALKING! THEY'LL HAVE TO MAKE IT THE GUILLOTINE FOR PLASTIC MAN! HE'S NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO ELECTRICITY OR THE GALLOWS!
12
In another section of the carnival...
LOOK! A PARACHUTE JUMP! THAT'S FOR ME!
BUT DARLING, ISN'T IT DANGEROUS? YOU HAVEN'T MADE ME THE BENIFICIARY ON YOUR POLICIES YET... ER.. :GULP: I MEAN I'D SIMPLY DIE IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU!


NONSENSE, MY DEAR! THE SLIGHT ELEMENT OF DANGER SIMPLY ADDS SPICE TO THE ADVENTURE FOR A MAN LIKE ME!
50¢ PARACHUTE RIPP
I'M ALMOST READY!
IT'S PLASTIC MAN! WHAT'S HE UP TO?
GOOD HEAVENS! PLASTIC MAN'S TRYING TO KILL THAT POOR MAN!
EEEEEEK!
NO! DON'T! YOU CAN'T DO THAT! IT WOULDN'T PAY ME A CENT!
SNIP!
13
WE WERE INSPIRED, MONK! AS SOON AS WELLS FALLS, WE DASH OUT AND GRAB HIS DOUGH! THEN THE COPS LOOK FOR PLASTIC MAN, FIND HIM AND CHOP OFF HIS HEAD!
FINDING STRETCHO TO COLLABORATE WITH US AND DISGUISING HIM AS PLASTIC MAN WAS THE CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR CHECKERED CAREERS!
HELL
P!
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?


HOLY HANNAH! THAT'S ME TRYING TO KILL A MAN--- I MEAN IT'S SOMEBODY WHO LOOKS LIKE ME!
STRETCHO! TRYING TO FRAME ME, EH?
EEEAHHH!
LET'S GO, MONK! WELLS IS FALLING!
IT WON'T WORK, REGGIE! PLASTIC MAN'S HEP!
WE'LL GET THE DOUGH BEFORE PLASTIC MAN CAN DO ANYTHING!
BOP!
PLASTIC MAN'S MAKING A PARACHUTE OUT OF HIMSELF!
HE WON'T BE IN TIME TO SAVE WELLS!
OHHH! PLASTIC MAN DID IT!
OF COURSE, HE DID! HE ALWAYS DOES IT! WHAT DID HE DO THIS TIME?
?


I'LL GRAB THE WALLET NOW BEFORE PLASTIC MAN CAN STRAIGHTEN HIMSELF OUT!
I DON'T HAVE TO STRAIGHTEN MYSELF OUT! I'VE GOT YOU COVERED, BOYS!
!
GLUG!
JOIN THE PARTY, STRETCHO!
STRETCHO'LL BE EASIER TO HANDLE THIS WAY!
YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED, PLASTIC MAN! GUYS LIKE YOU AND ME OUGHT TO STICK TOGETHER!
PLASTIC MAN, I INSIST ON GIVING YOU A SUBSTANTIAL REWARD FOR SAVING MY LIFE! BY JOVE, I FORGOT! I WAS TOO LATE TO CASH MY USUAL CHECK FOR A HUNDRED THOUSAND AT THE BANK, SO I'VE ONLY GOT NINE DOLLARS!
NEVER MIND! NO REWARD IS NECESSARY!
AND TO THINK OF WHAT I WENT THROUGH!
NOTHING MATTERS AFTER THIS LAST BLOW! LEAD US BACK TO PRISON AND KEEP US THERE!

MANHUNTER


It shouldn't happen to a DOG --- and it DOESN'T! The dog is THOR, Manhunter's great partner in his war against crime --- and this fighting pair sees to it that PLENTY happens to those who defy the law!
The manager of the ELITE JEWELRY STORE suddenly hears
SHOTS! WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT IN FRONT?
BANG!
BANG!
THE VAN CLOUGH TIARA --- IT'S GONE FROM THE SHOW CASE! AND WHERE'S JIM MARTIN?
I'M OFFICER DAN RICHARDS! I HEARD SHOTS IN HERE, DIDN'T I?

MY PARTNER, JIM MARTIN --- IF HE NEEDED DOUGH, WHY DIDN'T HE COME TO ME? TO GRAB THE VAN CLOUGH TIARA AND RUN WITH IT --- IT'S RIDICULOUS!

I'LL GO AFTER HIM!

YOU LOOKIN' FOR SOME GUYS RUNNIN' FAST? THEY WENT INTO THE SUBWAY!

BUT---

SUBWAY

I AM BLIND

YEP, THREE OF 'EM! RUN INTO ME, KNOCKED ME DOWN --- MIGHTA PUT MY EYE OUT OR SOMEPIN' ---

HOLD ON! YOU FORGOT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE BLIND! A FAKE BEGGAR, EH?

I AM BLIND!

GEE, I FORGOT! WELL--A GUY HAS TO MAKE A LIVIN' --AND THIS IS EASY!

NOT ANY LONGER! GIVE ME THAT GETUP AND GO GET AN HONEST JOB!

I AM BLIND!

Officer Dan Richards sheds his uniform to become *Manhunter* -- but not for very long...

JARN-WAHR STREET

ARF!

READY TO JOIN *MANHUNTER*, *THOR*? WELL, FOR A MOMENT, *MANHUNTER'S* GOING INTO DISGUISE -- AND YOU CAN HELP WITH THAT!

TRASH

He immediately disguises himself in the clothes of the blind man....

I AM BLIND!

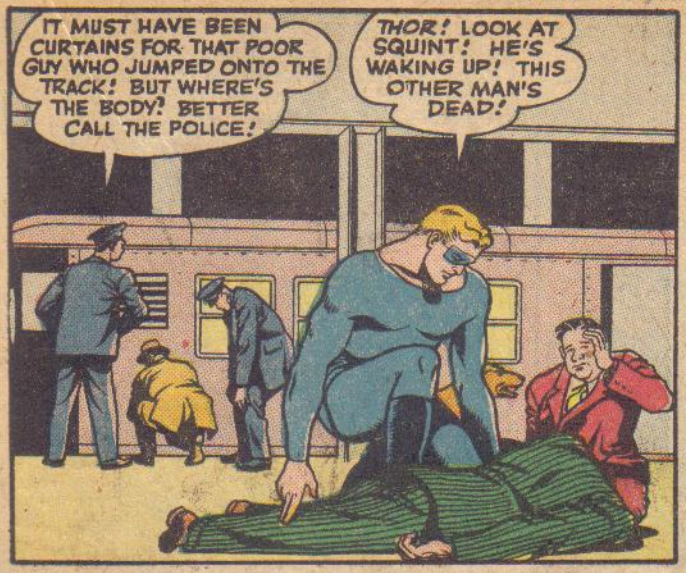
ONTO THE TRAIN, SQUINT! DON'T BE NOIVOUS! LOOKIT ME -- I WOULDN'T BE SCARED OF *MANHUNTER*, HISSELF!

DO WE HEAR SOMETHING ABOUT OURSELVES, *THOR*? LET'S GET ON THE TRAIN WITH THEM!

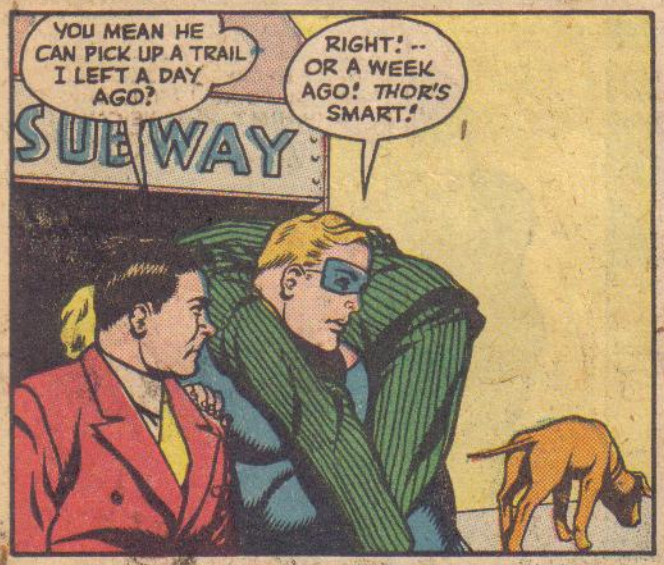
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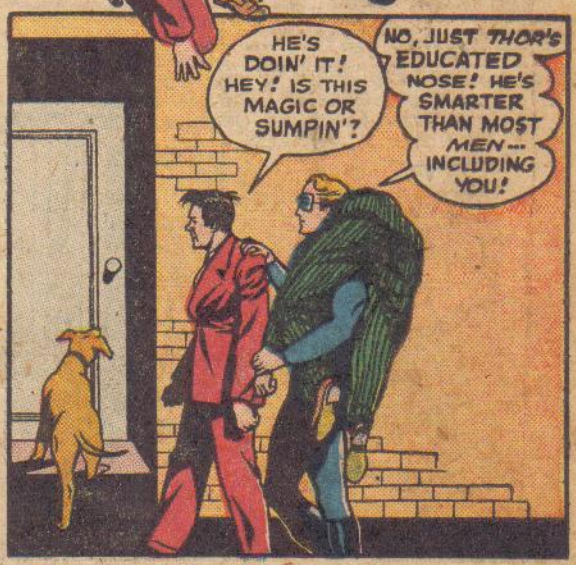
I AM BLIND


SIT DOWN HERE, YOUNG MAN! I'LL HELP YOU!
THANK YOU, LADY!
HAVE A COKE
TRY SHEEBO
COFFEE
DO YOU FEEL TIRED?
ZIPPER PILLS
SUCH A FINE DOG YOU HAVE! HE SEEMS SO ALERT---
PARDON ME, LADY --- READ THIS ---
OH, MY GOODNESS GRACIOUS!
Middle man of the three opposite sid is DEAD! Better leave at next station!
LOOKIT! EVERYBODY'S LEAVING AT THIS STATION --EXCEPT THAT BLIND GEEZER!
GOOD! HE CAN'T WATCH WHERE WE GO! NEXT STOP IS OURS!
PRIMA
COCOA
Chocolates
EAT CHEERIES
I AM BLIND
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH HIM?
I'LL POLISH THIS GUY OFF! HE CAN'T SEE TO KNOW WHAT HIT HIM!
Having quickly shed his disguise...
GRAB THE OTHER ONE, THOR!
NOT ME! I'LL TAKE A SHORT CUT---
DOWNTOWN
14
NO, THOR! IT'S SURE DEATH TO JUMP DOWN THERE AFTER HIM!
14
SQUEEEEE


IT MUST HAVE BEEN CURTAINS FOR THAT POOR GUY WHO JUMPED ONTO THE TRACK! BUT WHERE'S THE BODY? BETTER CALL THE POLICE!
THOR! LOOK AT SQUINT! HE'S WAKING UP! THIS OTHER MAN'S DEAD!


OKAY, SO YOU GOT ME! BUT YOU WON'T MAKE ME TALK!
TAKE A GOOD SNIFF AT HIM, THOR, AND THEN TRY TO PICK UP HIS SCENT! HE'S PROBABLY TRAVELLED THIS ROUTE BEFORE!


YOU MEAN HE CAN PICK UP A TRAIL I LEFT A DAY AGO?
RIGHT! -- OR A WEEK AGO! THOR'S SMART!
SUBWAY

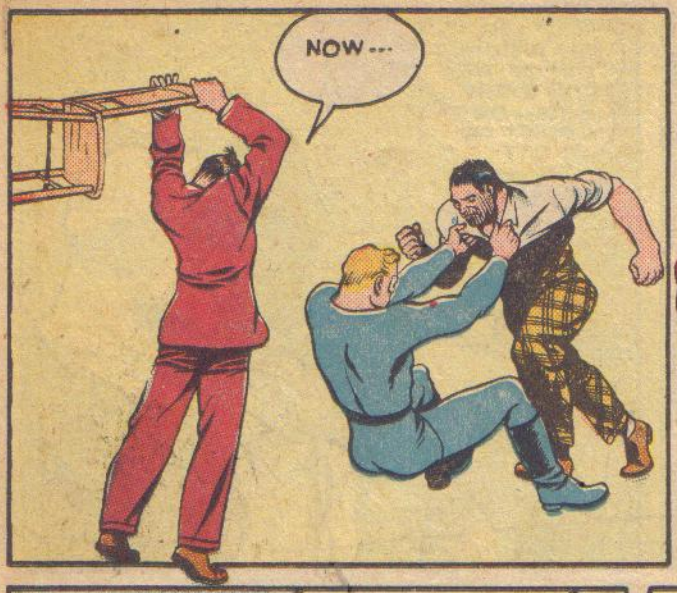

HE'S DOIN' IT! HEY! IS THIS MAGIC OR SUMPIN'?
NO, JUST THOR'S EDUCATED NOSE! HE'S SMARTER THAN MOST MEN--- INCLUDING YOU!


LEAN ON THAT DOORBELL, YOU! AND HARD!
IS THAT YOU, SQUINT? YOU DON'T HAVE TO RING THE BELL OFF THE DOOR!


I DIDN'T RAT, MOSSY! HONEST! THIS GUY'S GOT A MUTT THAT---
LET US IN, MOSSY--- IF THAT'S YOUR NAME! ONE OF YOUR PALS PAID OFF FOR KILLING THIS MAN, AND YOU AND SQUINT ARE JUST ABOUT DUE TO PAY OFF, TOO!

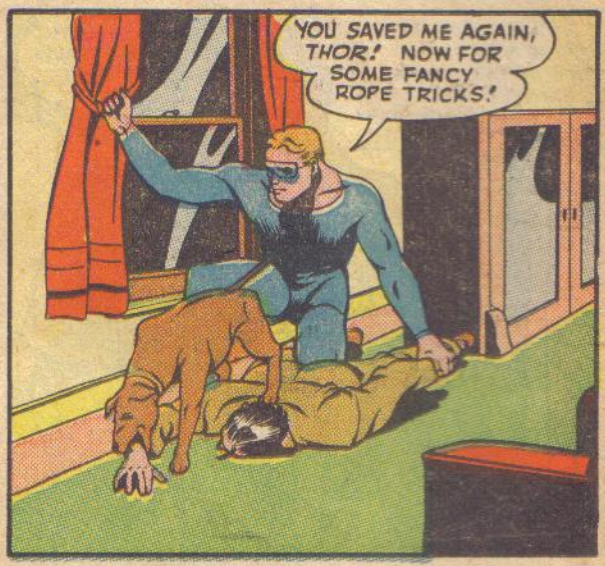

NOW, THERE'S SOME MISTAKE --- MY FRIEND SQUINT SURELY WAS MIXED UP IN THIS REGRETTABLE AFFAIR BY MERE CHANCE!
IT WASN'T CHANCE THAT PUT THE VAN CLOUGH TIARA INTO HIS POCKET, MOSSY!
YOU FIGURED TO MURDER AN HONEST BUSINESS MAN AND CARRY HIM OFF WITH THE LOOT -- TO MAKE IT LOOK AS IF HE RAN WITH IT! A SMART TRICK, AND A DIRTY ONE!
LOOK-- CAN'T WE MAKE A DEAL-- SAY WITH MONEY!
At the subway station...
IF YOU HADN'T JUMPED INTO THAT SLOT, YOU'D BE SO MUCH STEW MEAT BY NOW!
YOU'RE TELLING ME! GIVE ME A HAND UP OUTA HERE!
WAIT! THERE'S A REPORT TO BE MADE---
YOU MAKE IT OUT FOR ME! I'M ON MY WAY!
YOU CAN COME TO THE POLICE STATION WILLINGLY OR I'LL DRAG YOU THERE!
OH-OH! BIG SHOW GOING ON IN THERE! AND I'LL MAKE MY GRAND ENTRANCE!
AND AT THE POLICE STATION, YOU'LL TALK! THE LOUDER, THE BETTER!
OKAY, MANHUNTER! I'VE GOT A GUN ON YOU--- SO REACH!

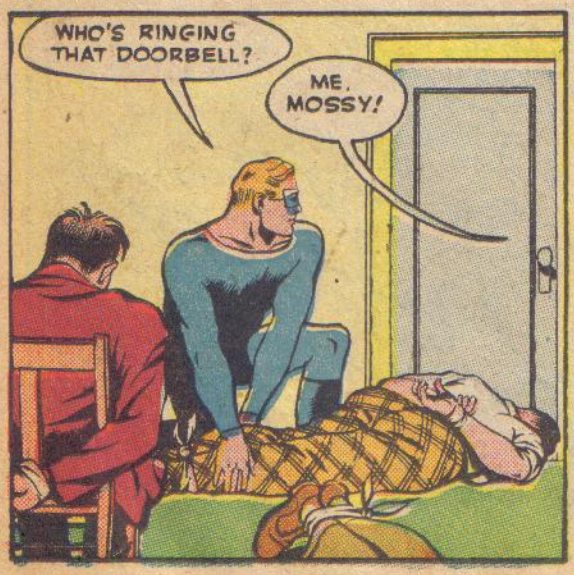

WHAT DID I TELL YOU? I SAID I WASN'T SCARED OF MANHUNTER!
BOWLY, YOU GET A BONUS FOR THIS--- OUT OF OUR NEXT JOB!
NEXT JOB? I GET A BONUS OUT OF THIS JOB RIGHT NOW--- OR I DON'T DO IT!
YOU'RE SMART TO GO SLOW, BOWLY! YOU SEE, I DIDN'T COME HERE ALONE!
I THINK SOMEBODY'S MOVING IN ON YOU RIGHT NOW, BOWLY!
AND I SHOULD LOOK AWAY FROM YOU? THINK I'LL FALL FOR THAT OLD GAG?
THE MUTT! WE FORGOT---
YOU'LL HAVE A LONG TIME TO REMEMBER BOTH OF US!
I'M BACKIN' YA UP, MOSSY--
BACK AWAY, THEN! I DON'T HAVE ROOM TO FALL DOWN!
I'LL CROWN HIM WITH THIS CHAIR!


NOW---


THANKS FOR THE ASSISTANCE, SQUINT! MAYBE THEY'LL LET YOU OFF WITH *LIFE* FOR DOING THAT!


HEY, GET THIS MEAT-HOUND OFF OF ME! I GIVE UP!
I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A SECOND, BOWLY!

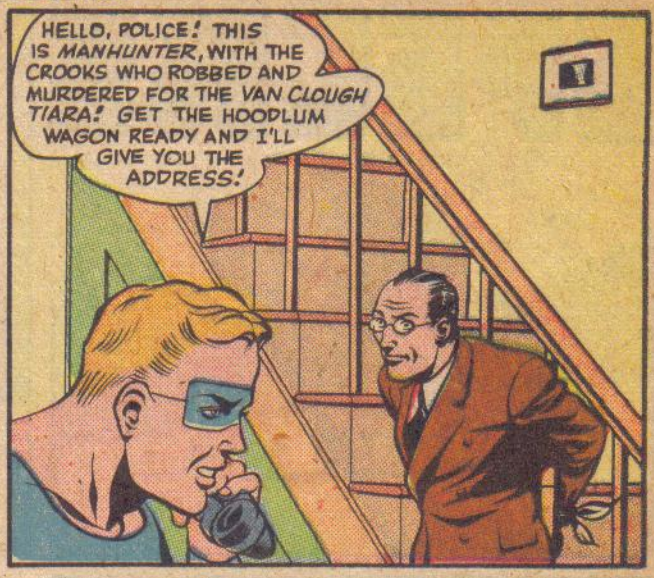

YOU SAVED ME AGAIN, *THOR!* NOW FOR SOME FANCY ROPE TRICKS!

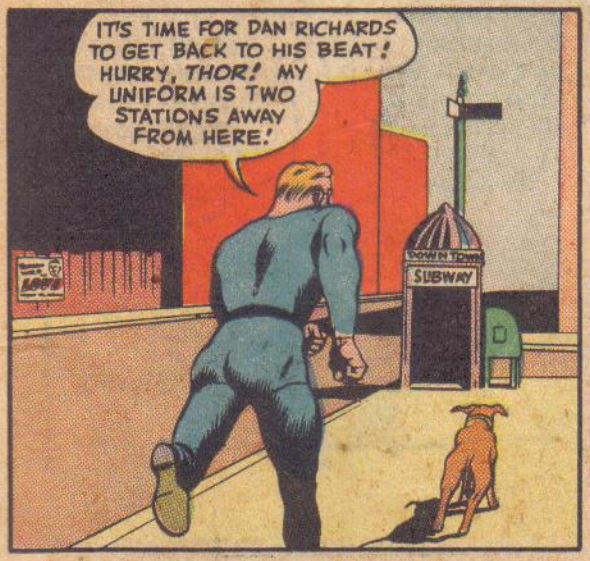

WHO'S RINGING THAT DOORBELL?
ME, MOSSY!

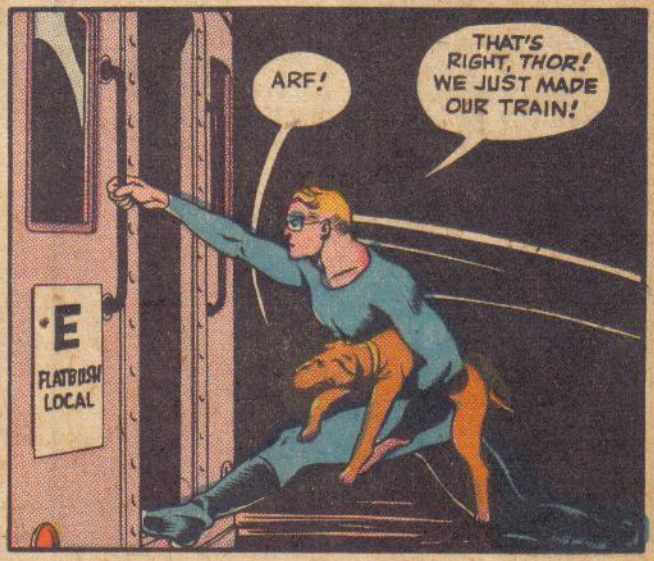

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
THE COPS HAVE LOST YOUR TRAIL --- THEY THINK JIM MARTIN TOOK THE TIARA! THE INSURANCE COMPANY WILL PAY OFF TO THE VAN CLOUGHS, AND WE CAN--


--BREAK UP THE PIECE AND SELL THE JEWELS FOR PLENTY!
COME IN AND JOIN US!


SO YOU STAGED THE ROBBERY--YOUR OWN PARTNER'S DEATH --TO STEAL FROM YOUR OWN STORE!
YIKE!


HELLO, POLICE! THIS IS MANHUNTER, WITH THE CROOKS WHO ROBBED AND MURDERED FOR THE VAN CLOUGH TIARA! GET THE HOODLUM WAGON READY AND I'LL GIVE YOU THE ADDRESS!
1


IT'S TIME FOR DAN RICHARDS TO GET BACK TO HIS BEAT! HURRY, THOR! MY UNIFORM IS TWO STATIONS AWAY FROM HERE!
SUBWAY

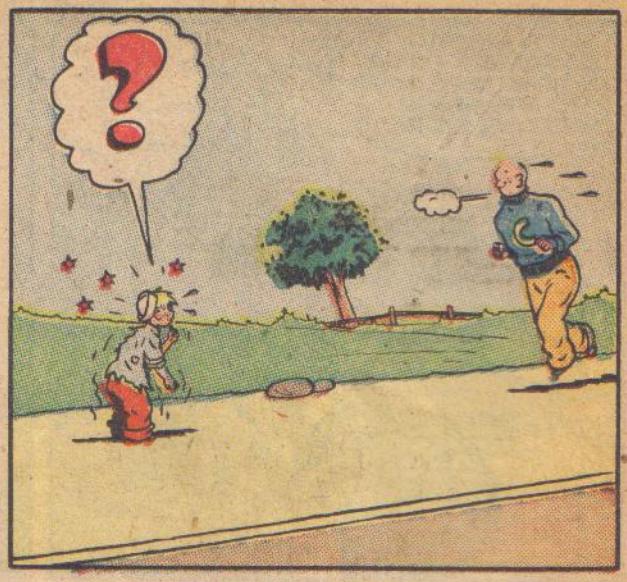

ARF!
THAT'S RIGHT, THOR! WE JUST MADE OUR TRAIN!
E
FLATBUSH LOCAL

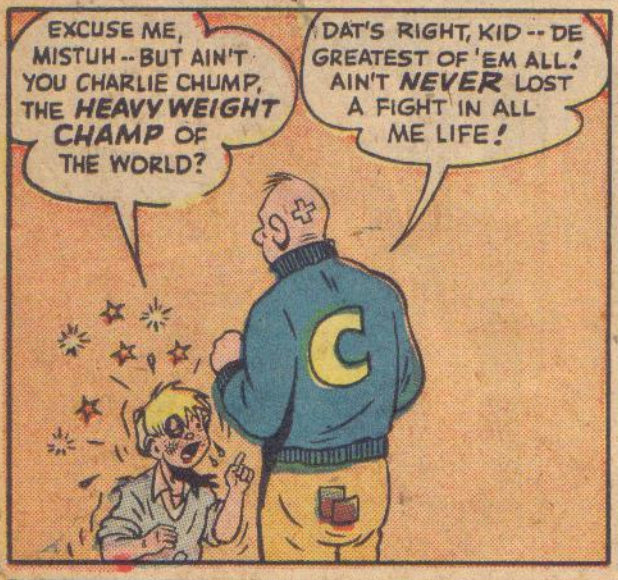

GOODBYE YOURSELF, BOY--UNTIL NEXT TIME!
JARNWAHR STREET
WUF! WUF!
TRASH

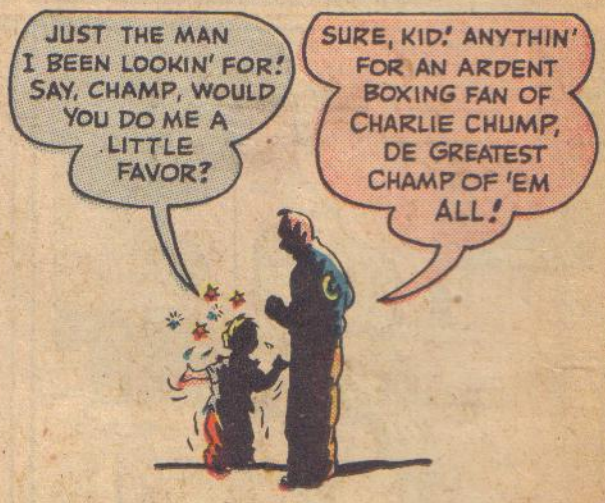

YOU CAN FORGET THAT JEWEL ROBBERY ON YOUR BEAT, RICHARDS! MANHUNTER JUST ROUNDED UP THE GANG DOWNTOWN!
GOOD! THAT'S JUST SO MUCH LESS WORK FOR ME TO DO!

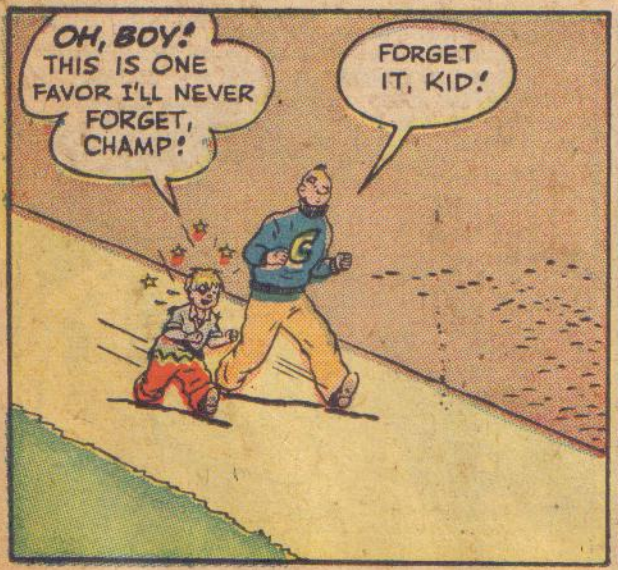
SPECKS

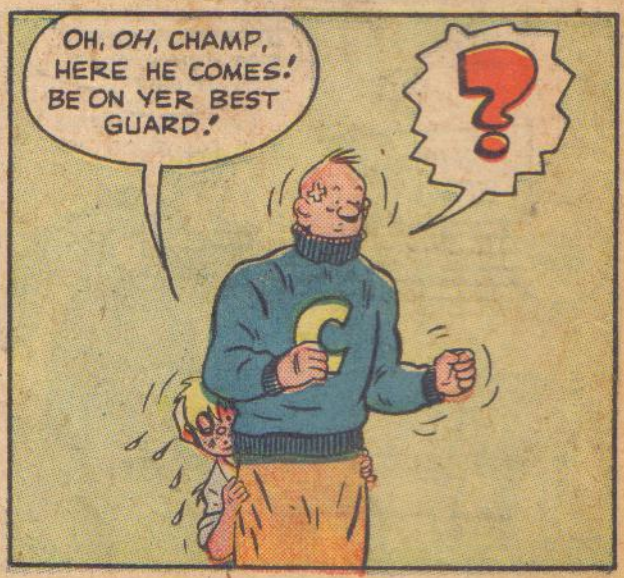


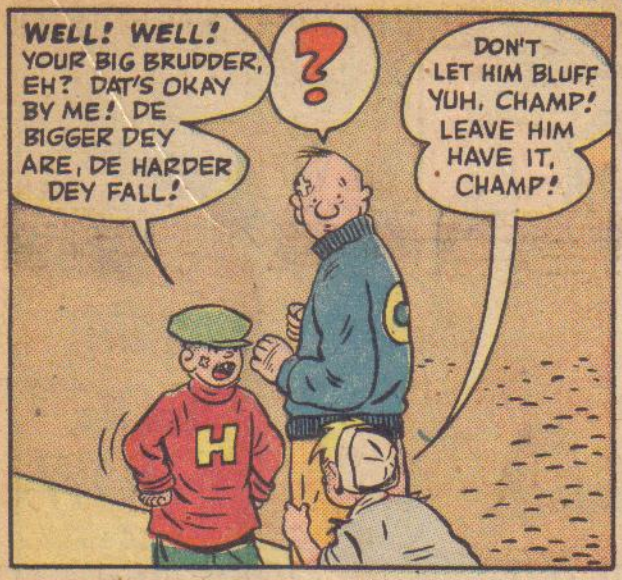

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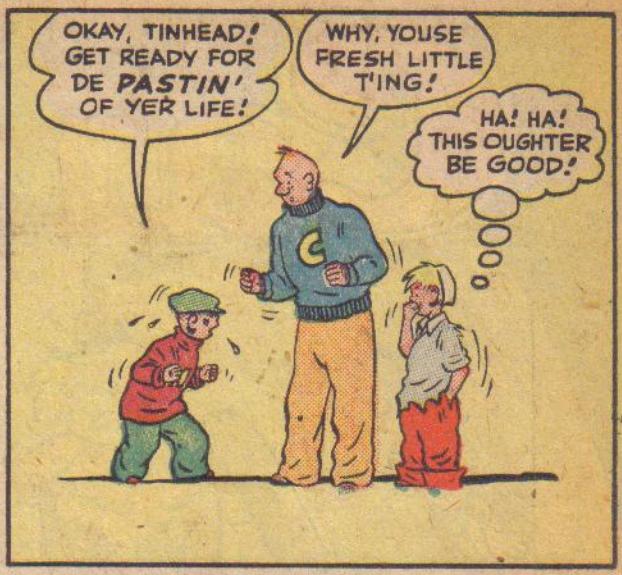

EXCUSE ME, MISTUH -- BUT AIN'T YOU CHARLIE CHUMP, THE HEAVY WEIGHT CHAMP OF THE WORLD?
DAT'S RIGHT, KID -- DE GREATEST OF 'EM ALL! AIN'T NEVER LOST A FIGHT IN ALL ME LIFE!

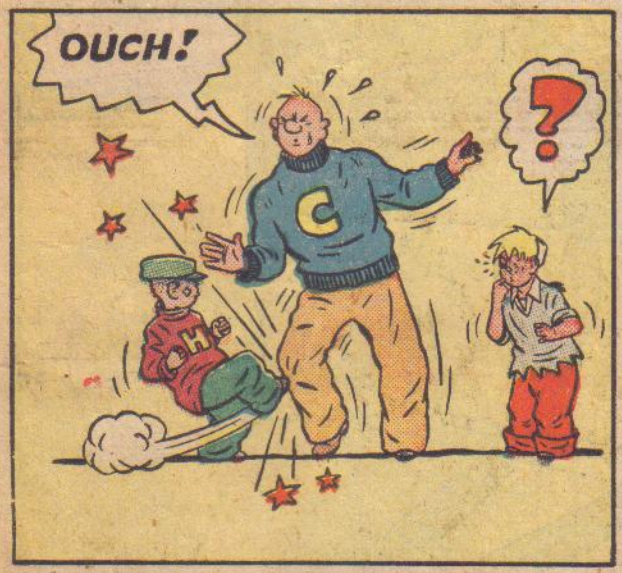

JUST THE MAN I BEEN LOOKIN' FOR! SAY, CHAMP, WOULD YOU DO ME A LITTLE FAVOR?
SURE, KID! ANYTHIN' FOR AN ARDENT BOXING FAN OF CHARLIE CHUMP, DE GREATEST CHAMP OF 'EM ALL!

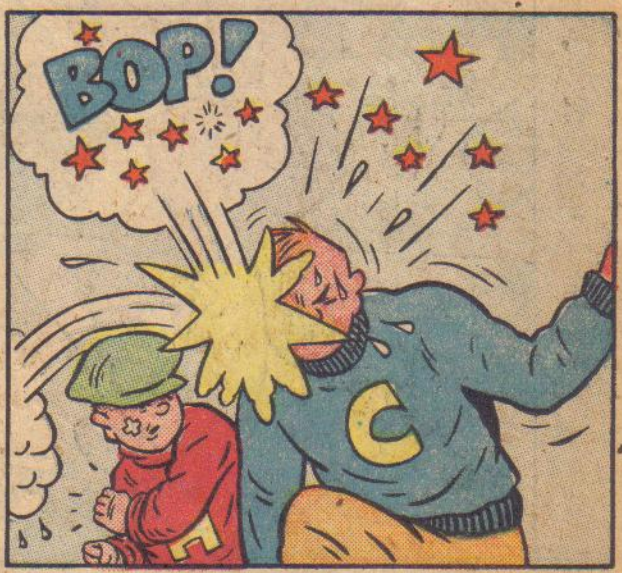

OH, BOY! THIS IS ONE FAVOR I'LL NEVER FORGET, CHAMP!
FORGET IT, KID!

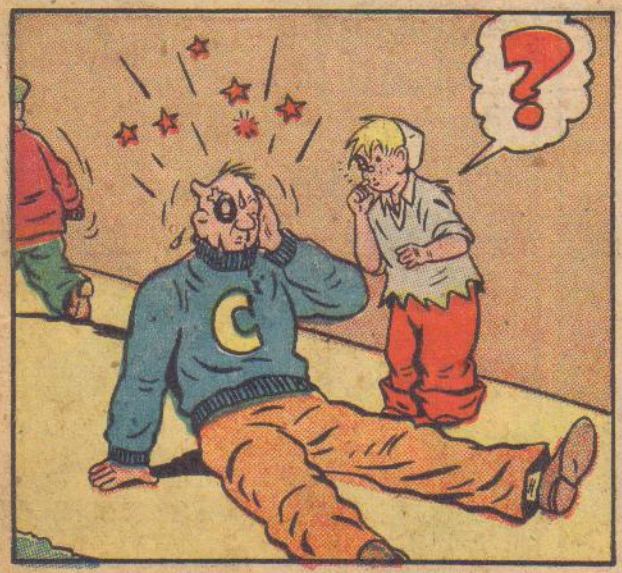

OH, OH, CHAMP, HERE HE COMES! BE ON YER BEST GUARD!
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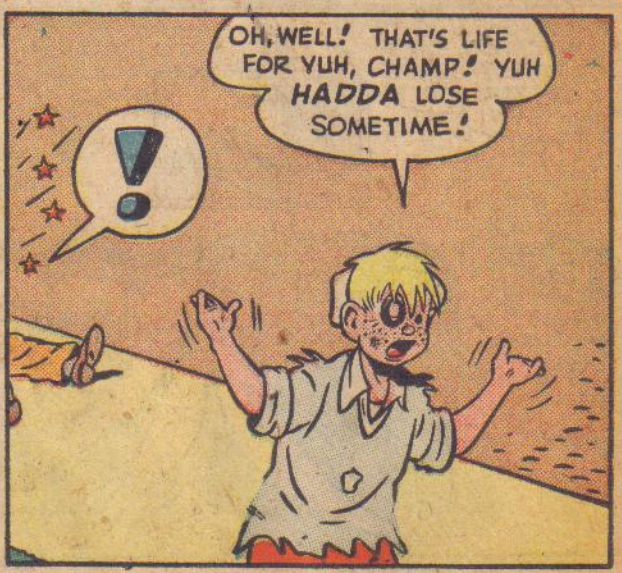

WELL! WELL! YOUR BIG BRUDDER, EH? DAT'S OKAY BY ME! DE BIGGER DEY ARE, DE HARDER DEY FALL!
?
DON'T LET HIM BLUFF YUH, CHAMP! LEAVE HIM HAVE IT, CHAMP!


OKAY, TINHEAD! GET READY FOR DE PASTIN' OF YER LIFE!
WHY, YOUSE FRESH LITTLE T'ING!
HA! HA! THIS OUGHTER BE GOOD!


OUCH!
?


BOP!


?

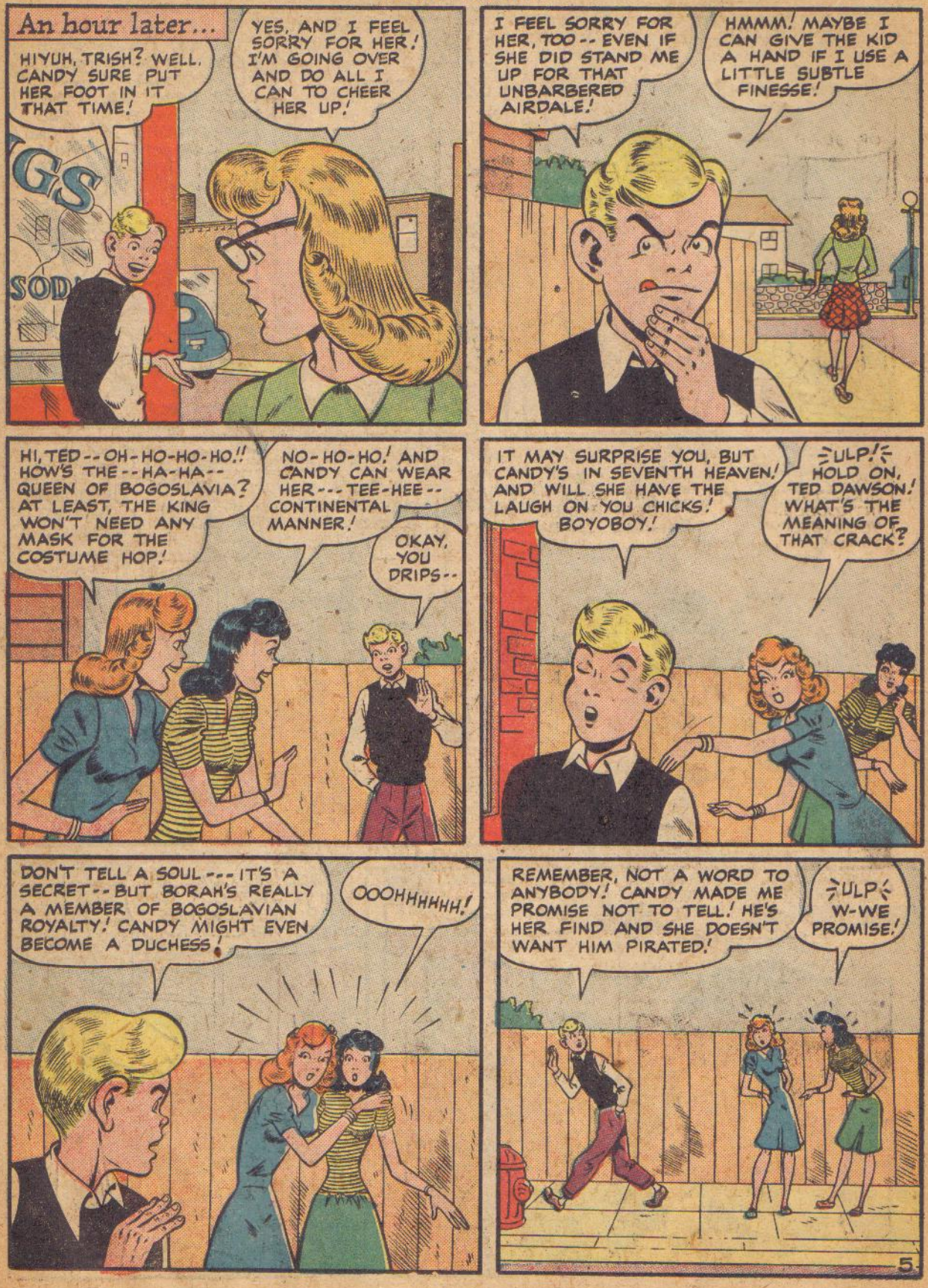

!
OH, WELL! THAT'S LIFE FOR YUH, CHAMP! YUH HADDA LOSE SOMETIME!

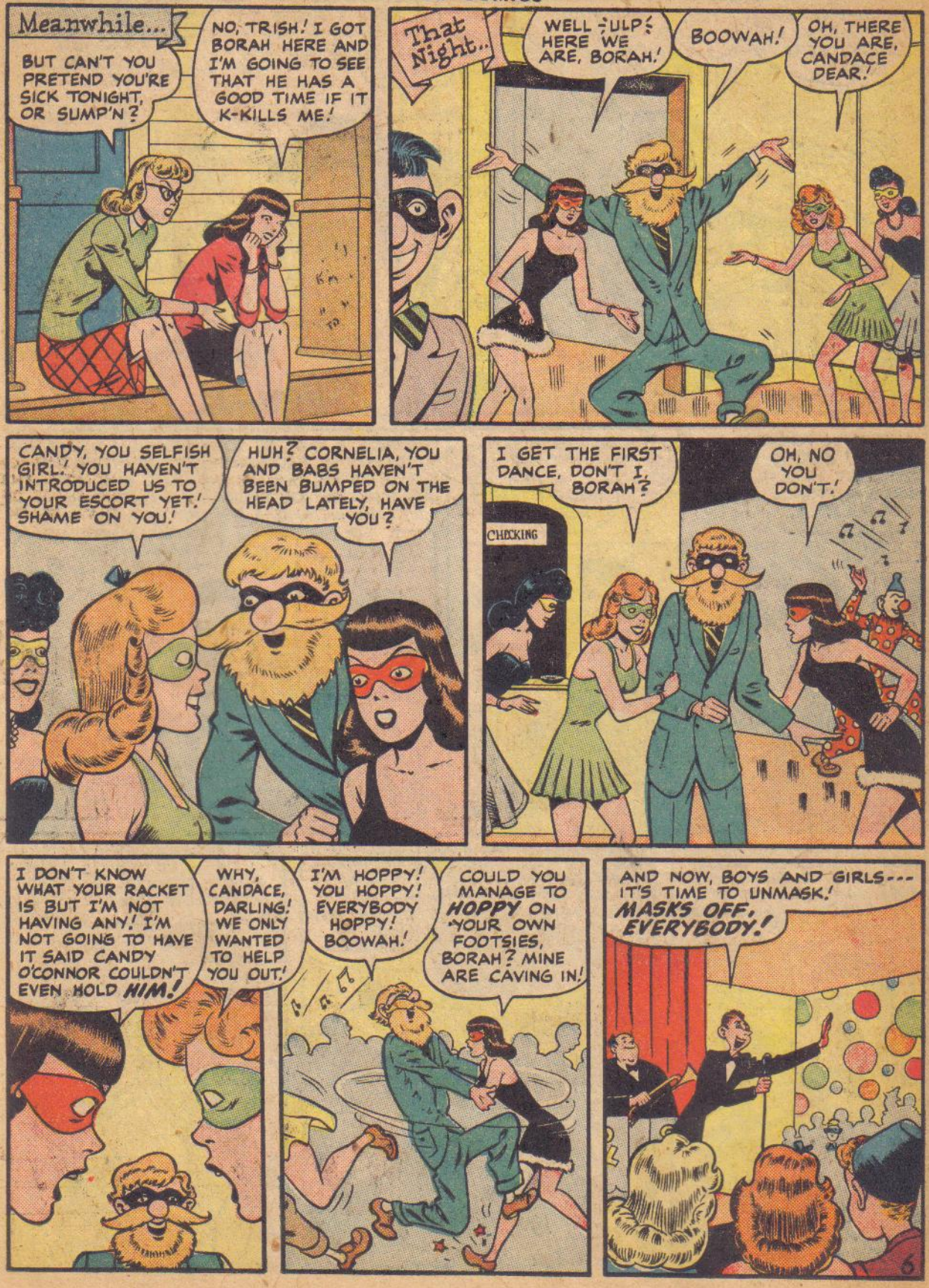

Candy
ANNUAL DOG SHOW
PRICES - ADMISSION 50
COME ALONG, BORAH! THIS IS THE ONLY SPOT I CAN THINK OF WHERE YOU WON'T LOOK OUT OF PLACE!
GREAT GUNS! IS THAT YOU, CANDY, OR A PRETZEL? HERE'S A LETTER FOR YOU!
HUH? THANKS, DAD!
YEEPS! JOUNCING JITTERBUGS!
HUH...?


EEEEEOW! HE'S COMING! HE'S COMING! HE'S COMING!
AND I'M GOING--- COMPLETELY NUTS!
SCRIPT
MOVIE
HE'S --- OOOPS!
HEY--!
GOLLY, I'M SORRY, TED! BUT I'M SO EXCITED I COULD FLY!
NEXT TIME, STRAIGHTEN UP AND FLY RIGHT, WILL YUH?
AND CAN YOU LAND LONG ENOUGH TO TELL ME WHAT'S COOKING?
I'M SO THRILLED, TED! REMEMBER DURING THE WAR WHEN WE WROTE CHEER-UP LETTERS TO REFUGEES IN EUROPE WHO'D LOST THEIR HOMES?
I DREW THE NAME OF BORAH VORSHT OF BOGOSLAVIA! HIS LETTERS WERE SIMPLY SUPER--- AND NOW HE'S COMING IN PERSON TO SEE ME!
ULP! ALL THE WAY FROM BOGOSLAVIA-- TO SEE YOU?
HE'S IN WASHINGTON ON SOME KIND OF MISSION AND HE'S COMING HERE TOMORROW! THE CHICKS'LL BE SIMPLY GRE-E-E-EN WITH ENVY!
2300
AREN'T YOU THRILLED, TED? HE'LL BE HERE TO TAKE ME TO THE COSTUME HOP TOMORROW NIGHT! I WROTE HIM ALL ABOUT IT!
I'M ALL A-QUIVER! I'D FIGURED ON TAKING YOU TO THE HOP MYSELF!
2


DON'T BE A DRIP, TED! HE'LL ONLY BE HERE A DAY! YOU CAN TAKE SOMEONE ELSE TO THE HOP!
SURE! MY AUNT BEDELIA'S PET CAT! EVERY OTHER FEMALE IN TOWN IS DATED UP FOR IT!
...AND I HOPE YOU SHE-WOLVES WILL TRY TO ACT LIKE LADIES! BORAH IS USED TO THE CONTINENTAL MANNER, YOU KNOW!
HMPH! WHAT A SHOCK HE'LL GET WHEN HE BUMPS INTO THE O'CONNOR MANNER!
OH, TRISH, ISN'T IT SIMPLY WIZARD? CORNELIA'S POSITIVELY SEETHING WITH ENVY!
ALL I CAN SAY IS - I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, KID! YOU'RE GOING OUT ON AN AWFUL LONG LIMB!
HOW'RE YOU GONNA KNOW THIS BOGOSLAVIAN BURP WHEN YOU SEE HIM?
WE'RE EACH CARRYING A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS! OH, TED, I CAN HARDLY WAIT!
TOOOOOT
THERE HE IS, TED! BE STILL, MY HEART! OH, BORAH! HERE I AM!
CONDY! MINE LIDDLE MAWTHER! YOUR BORAH VORSHT HAS ARRIVE!
? !
3

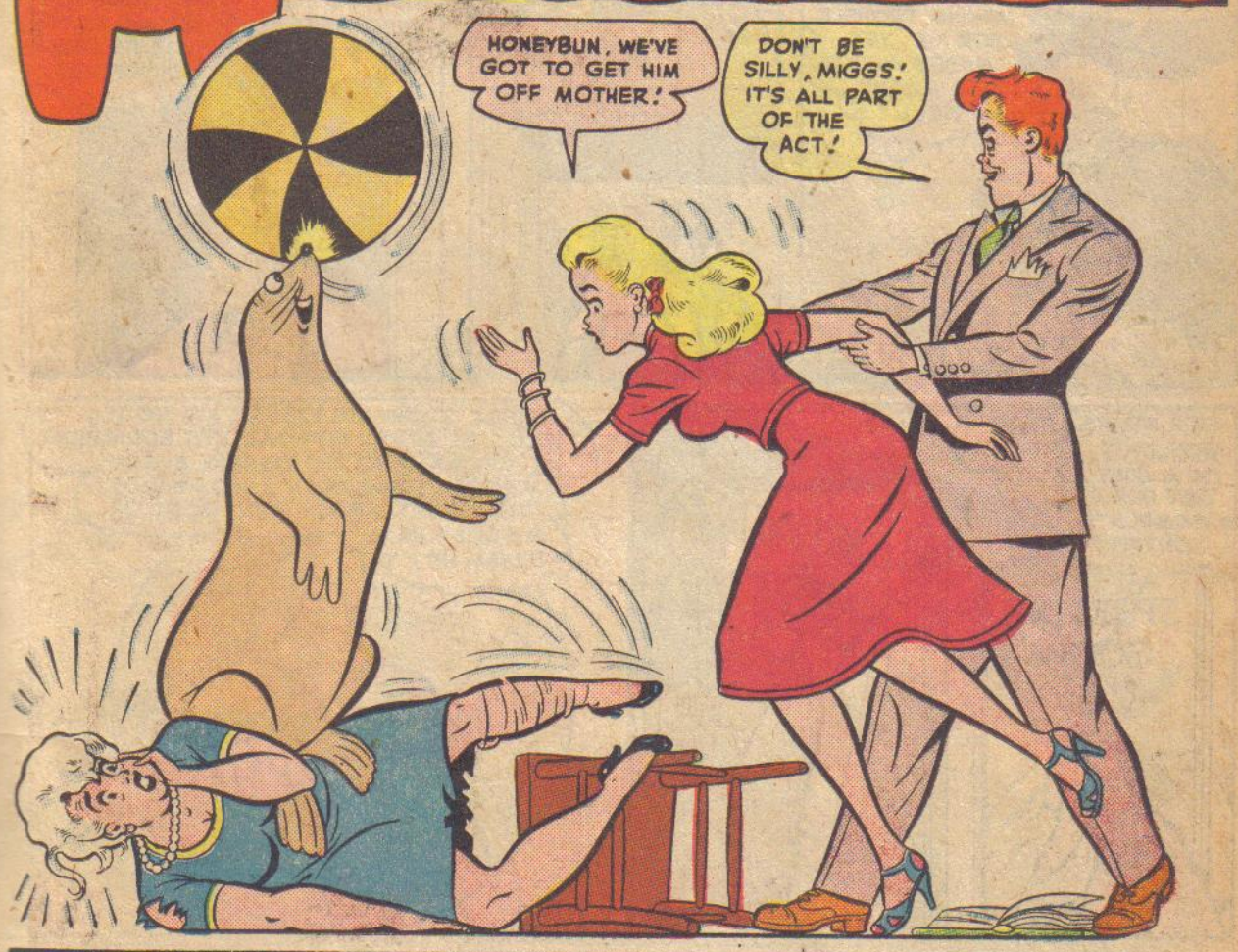

Y-Y-YOU'RE B-BORAH VORSHT?
BOOWAH! DOT'S YES IN BOGOSLAVIAN!
OVERCOME WITH EMOTION, I GUESS!
OOOOOOO!
I LOFF DESE YEWNINED SNAPES! I LOFF DESE BEEOOTIFUL GIRRULS! I LOFF MYSALF FOR BEINK ME! OND TONIGHT VE DONSE!
AND SHE PICKS HIM AHEAD OF ME!
OOOO-HA-HA-HA! THE CONTINENTAL MANNER, CANDY SAYS!
OKAY, YOU CATS---AND I DON'T MEAN THE HEP KIND! SOME DAY YOUR SLIPS WILL SHOW, TOO!
A short while later...
CANDY, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO BRING HOME STRAY DO--
;ULP!; IT'S HUMAN--- I THINK!
DAD, THIS IS BORAH VORSHT OF BOGOSLAVIA!
COME ALONG! I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR KENNEL...ER--- ROOM I MEAN!
I'M SO HOPPY! ISS ALL SO WAHNDERFOOL!
OOOOO! TED DAWSON, YOU'VE JUST GOT TO HELP ME...OH! HE'S GONE! THE COWARD!
4


An hour later...
HIYUH, TRISH? WELL, CANDY SURE PUT HER FOOT IN IT THAT TIME!
YES, AND I FEEL SORRY FOR HER! I'M GOING OVER AND DO ALL I CAN TO CHEER HER UP!
I FEEL SORRY FOR HER, TOO -- EVEN IF SHE DID STAND ME UP FOR THAT UNBARBERED AIRDALE!
HMMM! MAYBE I CAN GIVE THE KID A HAND IF I USE A LITTLE SUBTLE FINESSE!
HI, TED -- OH-HO-HO-HO!! HOW'S THE -- HA-HA -- QUEEN OF BOGOSLAVIA? AT LEAST, THE KING WON'T NEED ANY MASK FOR THE COSTUME HOP!
NO-HO-HO! AND CANDY CAN WEAR HER --- TEE-HEE -- CONTINENTAL MANNER!
OKAY, YOU DRIPS --
IT MAY SURPRISE YOU, BUT CANDY'S IN SEVENTH HEAVEN! AND WILL SHE HAVE THE LAUGH ON YOU CHICKS! BOYOBOY!
=ULP!= HOLD ON, TED DAWSON! WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THAT CRACK?
DON'T TELL A SOUL --- IT'S A SECRET -- BUT BORAH'S REALLY A MEMBER OF BOGOSLAVIAN ROYALTY! CANDY MIGHT EVEN BECOME A DUCHESS!
OOOHHHHHH!
REMEMBER, NOT A WORD TO ANYBODY! CANDY MADE ME PROMISE NOT TO TELL! HE'S HER FIND AND SHE DOESN'T WANT HIM PIRATED!
=ULP= W-WE PROMISE!

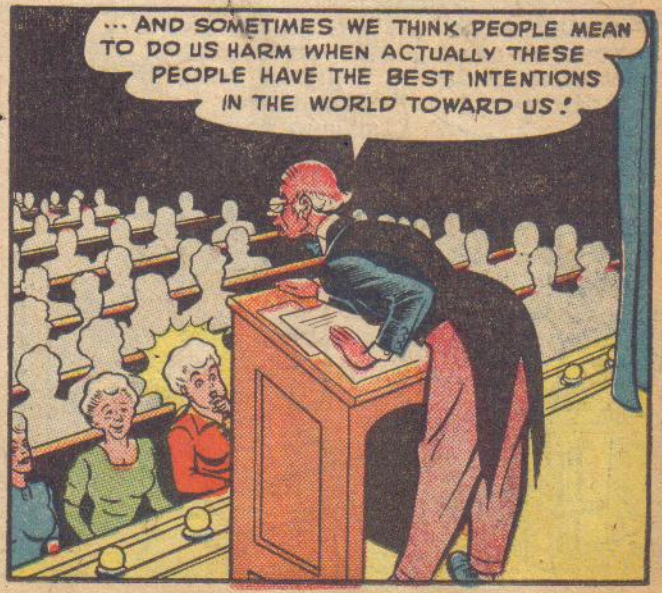

Meanwhile...
BUT CAN'T YOU PRETEND YOU'RE SICK TONIGHT, OR SUMP'N?
NO, TRISH! I GOT BORAH HERE AND I'M GOING TO SEE THAT HE HAS A GOOD TIME IF IT K-KILLS ME!
That Night..
WELL - ULP - HERE WE ARE, BORAH!
BOOWAH!
OH, THERE YOU ARE, CANDACE DEAR!
CANDY, YOU SELFISH GIRL! YOU HAVEN'T INTRODUCED US TO YOUR ESCORT YET! SHAME ON YOU!
HUH? CORNELIA, YOU AND BABS HAVEN'T BEEN BUMPED ON THE HEAD LATELY, HAVE YOU?
I GET THE FIRST DANCE, DON'T I, BORAH?
CHECKING
OH, NO YOU DON'T!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR RACKET IS BUT I'M NOT HAVING ANY! I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE IT SAID CANDY O'CONNOR COULDN'T EVEN HOLD HIM!
WHY, CANDACE, DARLING! WE ONLY WANTED TO HELP YOU OUT!
I'M HOPPY! YOU HOPPY! EVERYBODY HOPPY! BOOWAH!
COULD YOU MANAGE TO HOPPY ON YOUR OWN FOOTSIES, BORAH? MINE ARE CAVING IN!
AND NOW, BOYS AND GIRLS--- IT'S TIME TO UNMASK! MASKS OFF, EVERYBODY!
6

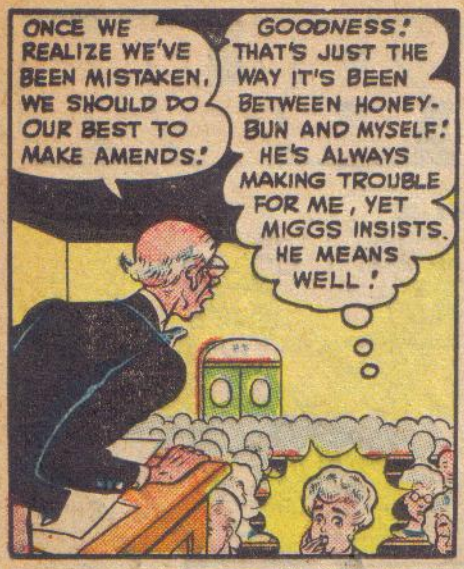

WELL, I GUESS THAT MEANS US, CANDY! HERE GOES!
YES, I GUESS IT... ULP! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR ACCENT?
MY ACCENT? I GUESS I CAN PARK THAT ALONG WITH THE WHISKERS NOW!
YEEEEEEK!
AND NOW FOR THE BIG SURPRISE, FOLKS! OUR GUEST OF HONOR TONIGHT IS BORAH VORSHT, CROWN PRINCE OF BOGOSLAVIA!
B-B-BUT-- THAT AWFUL FACE-- THAT ACCENT...
FRIENDS, I WANTED TO FIND OUT IF AMERICAN GIRLS WERE REALLY AS SINCERE AS THEIR LETTERS... AND I FOUND OUT!
FRANKLY, I EXPECTED MY HOSTESS TO TAKE ONE LOOK AT ME AND RUN! INSTEAD, SHE HAS ENTERTAINED ME CHARMINGLY...
...SO IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO BESTOW ON MISS CANDACE O'CONNOR THE BOGOSLAVIAN ORDER OF THE ORCHID!
ISN'T IT THRILLING, TED? SAY, WHAT ARE YOU GLOOMING ABOUT?
AW, I'M TRYING TO FIGURE SOMETHING OUT! WAS THIS ALL JUST A COINCIDENCE...
...OR IS IT THAT I JUST DON'T REALIZE MY OWN STRENGTH WHEN I LIE?

HONEYBUN


HONEYBUN, WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM OFF MOTHER!
DON'T BE SILLY, MIGGS! IT'S ALL PART OF THE ACT!


HERE COMES PROFESSOR HORNPIKE NOW! THEY SAY HE'S ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT PSYCHOLOGISTS IN THE COUNTRY! HE KNOWS ALL ABOUT PEOPLE!


... AND SOMETIMES WE THINK PEOPLE MEAN TO DO US HARM WHEN ACTUALLY THESE PEOPLE HAVE THE BEST INTENTIONS IN THE WORLD TOWARD US!


ONCE WE REALIZE WE'VE BEEN MISTAKEN, WE SHOULD DO OUR BEST TO MAKE AMENDS!
GOODNESS! THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT'S BEEN BETWEEN HONEYBUN AND MYSELF! HE'S ALWAYS MAKING TROUBLE FOR ME, YET MIGGS INSISTS HE MEANS WELL!


I MUST DO SOMETHING TO MAKE AMENDS! I'LL SHOW HONEYBUN I DON'T HOLD ANY GRUDGES!


HELLO, MIGGS? I'M DOWNTOWN! I THOUGHT I MIGHT BUY SOMETHING FOR HONEYBUN! WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'D LIKE?
HUH? WH-WHY... THAT'S A LOVELY THOUGHT, MOTHER! HE HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT PICKING UP SOME FISH HOOKS NEXT TIME HE GOES SHOPPING!


FISH HOOKS! THAT WOULDN'T BE MUCH OF A GIFT! I'LL GET HIM A COMPLETE OUTFIT!
SPORTING GOODS
SPORT
GOOD


THIS'LL SHOW HIM I BEAR HIM NO ILL WILL! BESIDES, WITH ALL THIS EQUIPMENT, HE MAY WANT TO GO FISHING EVERY WEEKEND AND THEN I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT SORT OF MISCHIEF HE'LL DREAM UP!


FOR ME? GOSH, MOTHER-IN-LAW, THAT SURE IS SWEET OF YOU!
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT, HONEYBUN! I HOPE YOU TAKE SOME REAL LONG FISHING TRIPS!
SNIFF!


WHAT A ROD! I'M GOING FISHING TOMORROW... RAIN OR SHINE! YES SIRREE!
ZING!


Next day...
I CAN'T FORGET HOW NICE MOTHER-IN-LAW'S BEEN TO ME! I HOPE I CATCH A HUNDRED POUND FISH SO I CAN TAKE IT TO HER!
Hours later...
NOT A SINGLE BITE!
And still later...
OH, WELL, I'LL STOP IN THE FISH MARKET AND BUY A BIG FISH OR TWO!
GOLLY, AM I SEEING THINGS? NO... IT'S REAL!
MOVING VAN
EXPRESS
PSSST! LIKE TO BUY HIM, MISTER? HE'S TERRIFIC! I WOULDN'T PART WITH HIM IF I WASN'T SO BROKE! BUT I LOST MY JOB WITH THE CIRCUS AND I NEED MONEY BADLY!
GET A LOAD OF THE TRICKS HE CAN DO! AND YOU CAN HAVE HIM FOR FIFTY BUCKS!
THAT SEAL'S A GENIUS! OH, BOY, HAVE I GOT AN IDEA! I'LL BUY HIM FOR MOTHER-IN-LAW! MAYBE I'LL JUST KID HER WITH A YARN ABOUT A SEAL JUMPING OUT OF THE WATER AND ASKING TO BE TAKEN HOME TO HER!
AFTER ALL, MOTHER-IN-LAW HAS A WONDERFUL SENSE OF HUMOR!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL TAKE HIM! HERE'S YOUR DOUGH!


MOTHER-IN-LAW ISN'T AT HOME! SHE MUST BE OUT WITH MIGGS! THAT'S FINE!
WILL SHE BE SURPRISED WHEN SHE COMES IN AND SEES THE PRESENT I BROUGHT HER!
CRASH!!
EEEEEEK! HELP!
HELP!
HONK! HONK!
HONK!
HONK!
OH-H! HE WON'T LET ME OUT! DEAR ··· OH, DEAR ··· BUT HE DOESN'T LOOK VERY FIERCE! I THINK HE'S TRYING TO BE FRIENDLY!
SLAM!
4

BUT, HONEYBUN, WHAT IS THIS TERRIFIC SURPRISE YOU BROUGHT MOTHER?

WAIT'LL YOU SEE IT, MIGGS! MOTHER-IN LAW'LL LOVE IT!

Meanwhile at police headquarters...

SURE, YOU FOUND THE THIEF! BUT YOU DIDN'T FIND MY SEAL! THAT SEAL'S WORTH A FORTUNE! MAKE HIM TALK!

WANTED

$5000 REWARD

TALK! WHERE'S THE SEAL?

HA! HA! STOP! I'LL TALK! HA! HA! I SOLD IT TO A STRANGER AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE LIVES.. OH-HH, HA! HA! HA!

I'D BETTER NOT TAKE ANY CHANCES! I'LL CALL THE POLICE WHILE THIS MONSTER IS IN A GOOD MOOD!

WHAT? YOU FOUND A SEAL IN YOUR HOUSE? I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!

WELL, MOTHER-IN-LAW, HOW DO YOU LIKE HIM?

LIKE HIM? YOU MEAN... YOU ... *YOU* ... LEFT HIM HERE?

I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN! WHO ELSE WOULD DO A THING LIKE THAT?

BUT MOTHER-IN-LAW! HE'S A TRAINED SEAL! YOU DON'T KNOW SOME OF THE THINGS HE CAN DO!


I KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO DO!
WHAT GOES ON HERE? RUNNING AWAY, EH?
SO YOU'RE THE FENCE! YOU'LL DO TIME FOR BUYING STOLEN GOODS, MY FRIEND!
HONK! HONK!
MONICA! MONICA! DON'T GO TO HIS DEFENSE! HE'S A CROOK! GOSH! MY OWN SEAL IS TRYING TO HELP MY WORST ENEMY! MONICA! THEY'RE ALL CROOKS!
BAM!
HOW DARE YOU CALL US CROOKS?
CRASH!
AH, MONICA, YOU CAME TO ME WHEN YOU SAW MY DISTRESS! YOU LOVE ME, AFTER ALL!
I GIVE UP! I'VE HAD ENOUGH! LET'S SAY THERE'VE BEEN MISTAKES ALL AROUND! I JUST WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE! LET'S FORGET EVERYTHING!
SORRY! THERE ARE SOME THINGS I CAN'T FORGET!
BUT, MOTHER-IN-LAW ... I MEANT WELL ...
BEST INTENTIONS! AMENDS! SEALS! PSYCHOLOGISTS! PHOOEY!
THE POOR WOMAN!

Peg-Leg STIVERS

THERE was plenty of trouble on the waterfront! Two prominent ship owners were found shot to death, one on the deck of his private yacht and the other at the slip where he was about to board a small boat.

According to all reports, there had not been any shots heard at this particular part of the waterfront. But then police figured that it would be impossible to hear shots along the busy harbor.

Both shipping men had been shot in the breast with a small calibre high-velocity bullet. There was no reason for either of the murders, if murders they were. Neither man had any enemies, so far as the police could tell.

Was it the work of some homicidal maniac?

When Dick Mace was assigned to the job, he knew he had a big one on his hands. These dock murders are always tough babies to crack.

Dick made a thorough search of the waterfront. Every dive came under inspection. Every hanger-on. Dick interviewed scores of dock workers and familiars of the area, but discovered nothing.

He was walking away from the docks one evening when he spied a thick-set man with a wooden peg leg, sitting on a piling feeding a great flock of gulls.

"Howdy," said Dick, stopping. "That's a large bunch of gulls you have on hand."

"So 'tis," rasped the heavy man without looking at Dick. "All I have t' do. Gulls appreciate. Ain't like hoomans."

Dick squatted on his heels to watch the gulls wheeling and diving at the bits of food the oldster threw out. The man might be about sixty. He had a sour, saturnine face, beefy-red from long exposure to sea wind. Might be an ex-master, Dick figured.

"Your ship in dock?" Dick hazarded.

"My ship!" the old man favored him with a glare. "Who said I had a ship?"

"Oh," said Dick a bit flustered, "you look like a master."

"Well, I was once, young feller! No better on the blasted high seas—till I got this." He stuck out his peg leg with a grimace.

"Too bad. How did you happen to get that?"

"Why, the d—" The old man caught himself. "Got her aboard a ship I was mate on onct," he said crisply. There was a world of hate in his eyes, Dick saw.

Dick arose and stretched himself. "Well, so long," he said to the old ex-master. He strode off.

That was about an hour before sundown. Less than an hour later his hotel phone rang. He lifted the receiver.

"Another shipping man shot, Dick," came the voice of Byers, the chief. "Dead as a mackerel. Shot right through the breast at close range. Slip 14, if you care to drop down—although I don't know what you can turn up."

"Okay," said Dick. "I'll go on down."

When Dick arrived at Slip 14, he found quite a crowd. Of course, the ship owner—Beetson by name—had long since been removed. But the scene always draws a crowd—and sometimes the criminal.

Dick didn't see anybody who looked much like a criminal. It was after the crowd had thinned somewhat that he recognized the spot. Right here was where the old peg-legged master had been sitting on the pile feeding the gulls.

Not that that meant anything. And yet, what had Dick remembered most about the old man? The utter hate that showed in his eyes when he mentioned the—had he mentioned anybody, or was it merely the ship he was on as mate when he got his wooden leg?

Dick sat down on the pile and pondered it. The old man had said no names or ranks, except his own. When he was mate, he had lost his leg. But his eyes had glowed terrible hate. Then it

must have been under some tough skipper that he'd lost his leg. And in that case. . . .

"Yeah," said Dick. "In that case, so what? You're still up a nice tall tree—or mast, in this event."

After a few minutes, Dick got up and moseyed toward one of the all-night dives that was already humming with business. It was filled with shipping men. Dick went up to the bar and ordered a beer. Not that he ever drank stimulants of any sort; this was a ruse.

He pretended to sip at the beer and kept his eyes busy. At last he was rewarded. The old peg-leg came hobbling in and sat down in a corner. In a moment, two or three cronies were sitting down at his table.

Dick sauntered over and tried to listen to their conversation, but the noise was so great in the room that it was mostly impossible. He did catch a few words which, put together, meant little. After a moment, certain that the old man hadn't seen him, he sauntered over to the table and said, "Oh, hello, Captain!"

The old man eyed him for a moment, then kicked a chair out. "Sit, boy."

Dick sat down, looking pleasantly anticipatory.

"What'll ye have, boy?" the old man asked.

Dick grinned. "To tell you the truth, I guess nothing tonight, sir. Thanks just the same. You see, I write fiction stories and tonight I'm on the prowl for material." (It was true that Dick did some writing.) "I figured what better place than a gathering of seafaring men for good story stuff?"

One of the old salts chuckled. "You ain't barkin' up no wrong tree there, bub! I cud tell ya a yarn that'd make yer hair stand on end, I cud."

The younger man at the table—a first mate—grinned. "Pop Suthers thinks he's done everything in the book just because he used to be a whaler," he chortled.

"Wal," shouted the oldster, "an' kin ya beat whalin' fer downright excitement an' adventure?"

Peg-leg interposed with, "Tush, men. I guess mebbe I could spin a tall one myself if I was in just the right mood. Which I ain't," he added quickly.

"I was in hopes," began Dick, "that you might, sir."

"Someday—someday!" Peg-leg waved a horny hand in dismissal. "But tonight I got some old pals showin' up. No tales tonight."

Dick got up. "Well, anyway, thanks to you, gentlemen. I know you could all tell good stories. One thing, sir"—Dick addressed the peg-legged member of the table—"what do you think of the average seaman? I mean the average master?"

A furious blaze of hate shot through the old man's eyes. Then he quickly controlled it. He forced a grin. "That'll keep fer the story someday," he said airily.

The next day Dick made inquiries about the peg-legged ex-master. His name, he found, was Nate Stivers. No one knew much about him. He had shown up in the waterfront area only a couple of months before. Seemed to have money. Seldom mixed with seafaring men.

"Ah, mystery!" said Dick to himself after hearing this last from some informant.

That afternoon another master was shot as he boarded his launch. The bullet had gone through him and cut a gash in a sailor's shoulder sitting behind him. The master had been killed instantly.

It was four days later that Dick, seated in a hidden spot near the old peg-legged chap, watched Capt. Percy Adair of the *Holmby S* walk down the dock heading for his small boat. Dick wasn't watching Capt. Adair so much as he was Stivers. He saw a strange thing then. Stivers suddenly lifted his wooden leg, pointing it in the direction of the ship master. Dick cut loose a yell and raced toward the old peg-leg.

Peg-leg whirled the wooden leg in his direction and Dick felt a twitch of the cloth in his coat shoulder. A bullet had passed through it, but there had been no sound and no smoke. He caught Peg-leg as he was hobbling away. And the rest was easy. The wooden leg contained a clever rifle with a silencer, which fired whenever Peg-leg squeezed a bulb held in one hand. He hated all ship masters.

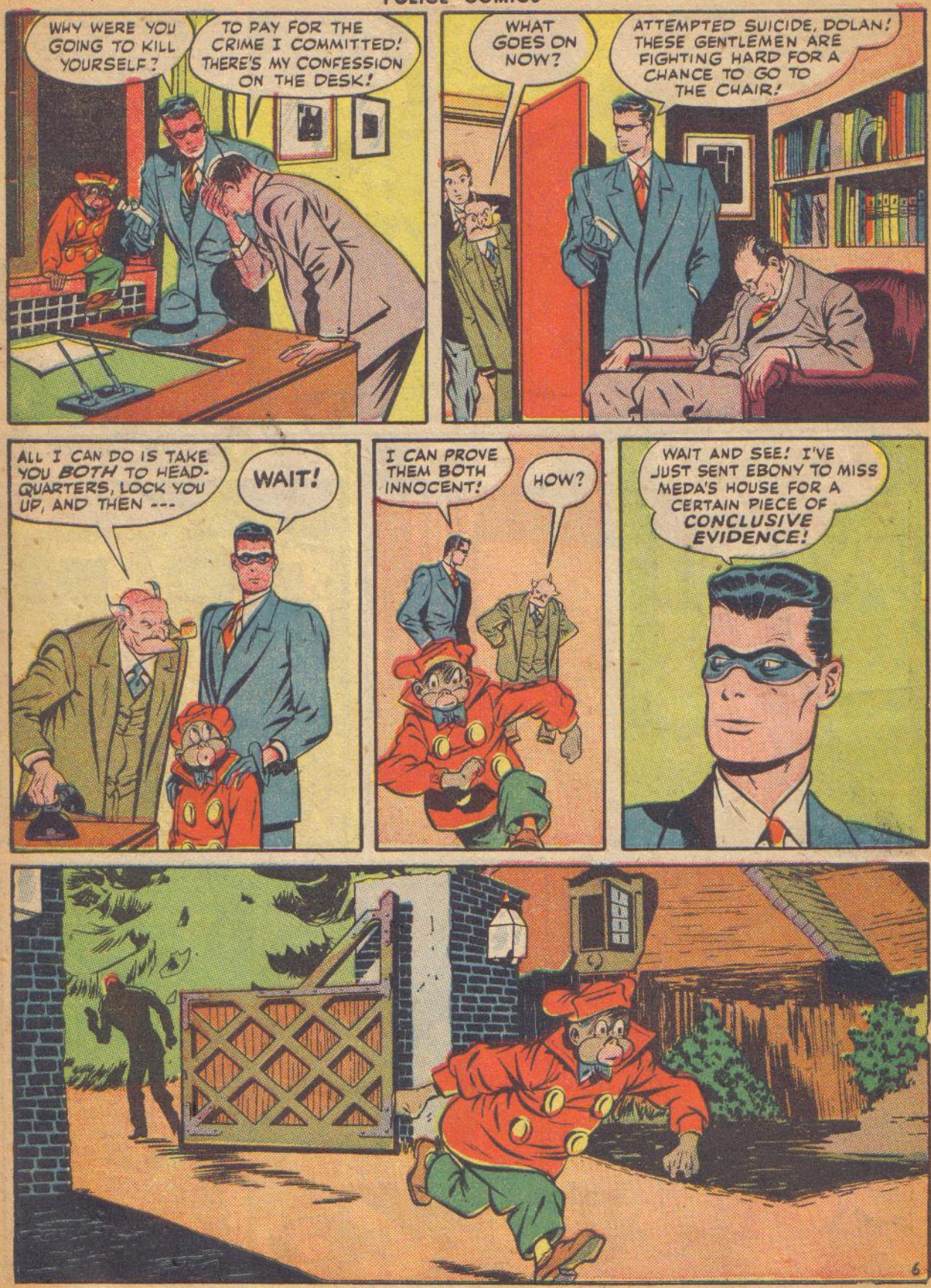

THE
SPIRIT
by
Will Eisner


WHY, SENATOR GAVIN! WHAT BRINGS YOU TO CALL ON INSIGNIFICANT LITTLE ME?
I WANT TO DISCUSS A SUBJECT THAT WOULD INTEREST YOU, MISS MEDA! MONEY!
I'M WILLING TO PAY WELL IF YOU RELEASE MY SON BOB FROM HIS PROMISE TO MARRY YOU!
IMPOSSIBLE, SENATOR! I'LL MAKE A LARGER PROFIT BY MARRYING HIM! I HAVE HIS LETTERS AND ---
--IF HE TRIES TO BREAK THE ENGAGEMENT, I'LL GO TO COURT! THE GAVIN FAMILY SURELY DOESN'T WANT SCANDAL!
I HEARD THAT, MEDA!
I CAME JUST BY CHANCE, DAD! BUT I'M THANKFUL THAT I LEARNED MEDA'S REAL REASON FOR MARRYING ME -- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
BOB!
BUT IT IS TOO LATE!
I'LL MARRY YOU -- AND A SHARE OF THE GAVIN FORTUNE! YOUR LETTERS CAN'T BE LAUGHED OFF! NOW, PARRY, SHOW THESE GENTLEMEN OUT!
YES'M! C'MON OUTSIDE, YOU TWO!
THAT'S THAT! BY TOMORROW NIGHT LITTLE MEDA STEPS FROM SMALL-TIME SHOW BUSINESS INTO HIGH SOCIETY ... MRS. ROBERT GAVIN!
WH-WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE POINTING AT ME? Y-Y-YOU DON'T MEAN ---

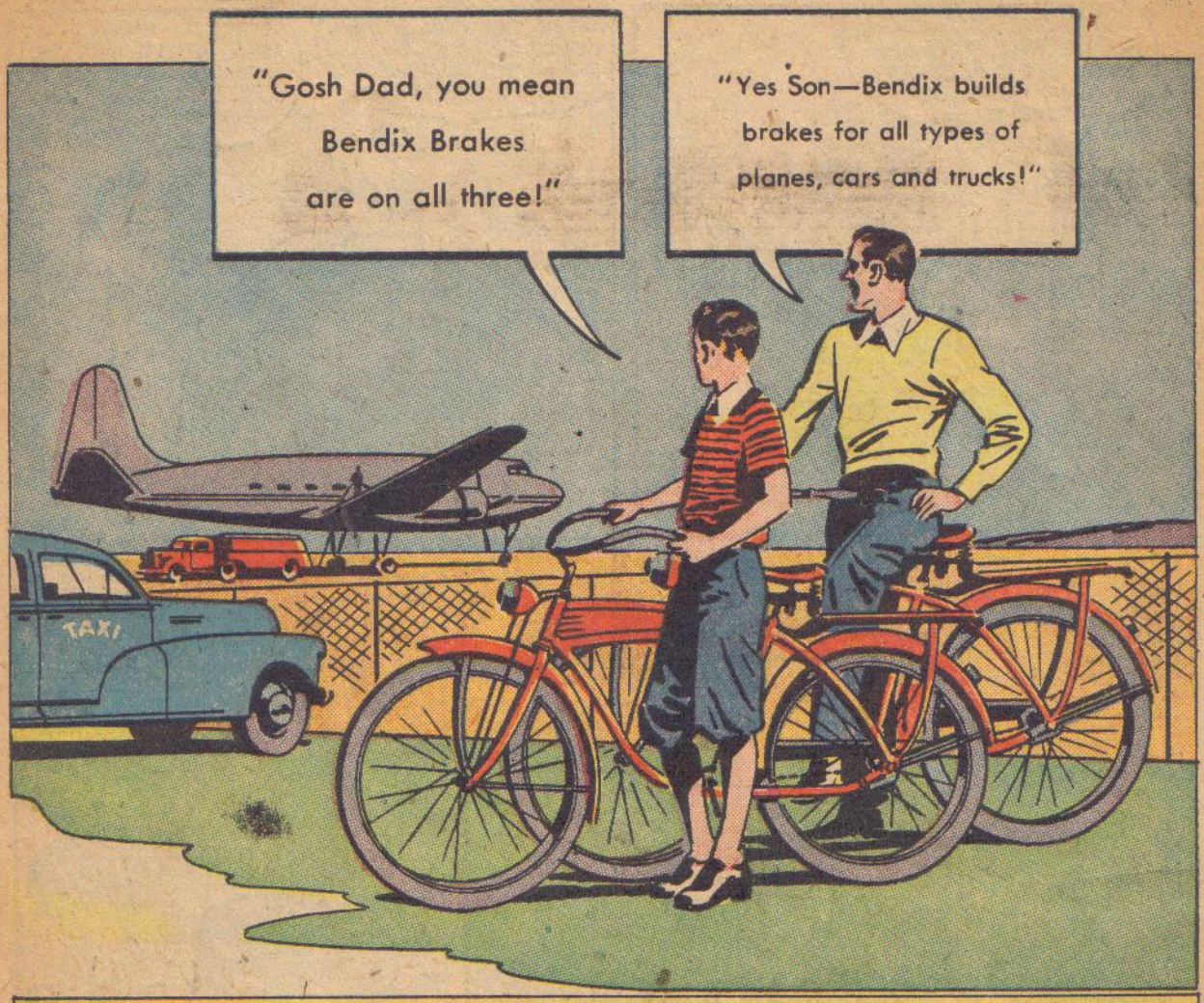

POLICE! QUICK -- HE'S GOING TO KILL ME!
A SCREAM -- AND A SHOT! TRACE THIS CALL AND GET OUT THERE ON THE JUMP!
YES, SIR!
SOMEBODY PHONED! WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
PLENTY, OFFICER! COME IN!
I'M HER SECRETARY AND BODY-GUARD! SHE SENT ME TO TURN OUT A COUPLA TROUBLE-MAKERS! I MADE 'EM GET INTO SEPARATE TAXIS --- WHEN I CAME BACK ---
IT WASN'T ROBBERY! SHE'S STILL WEARING HER JEWELS!
LOOKS LIKE REVENGE KILLING, HUH? ... CAN YOU OPEN THAT SAFE?
SURE, I CAN!
ALL HER VALUABLES ARE SAFE!
HEY! THESE LETTERS ARE FROM SENATOR GAVIN'S KID! I'D BETTER PASS THAT WORD RIGHT UP TO THE TOP OF THE DEPARTMENT!
THE SENATOR'S SON, YOU SAY? IMPLICATED IN MURDER? THEN I'D BETTER INVESTIGATE, MYSELF!
AND WE'LL COME ALONG, DOLAN -- TO KEEP YOU FROM SMASHING ALL THE CHINA IN THE SHOP!


BOB, WE'LL STAND TOGETHER IN THIS TERRIBLE CRISIS!
YOU ☆#@%☆ KILLER! YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR WHAT YOU DID! I'M GOING TO BREAK YOUR NECK!
NOT EVEN A SENATOR'S SON CAN GET AWAY WITH ---
HOLD EVERYTHING! THE LAW WILL SETTLE THIS!
I TOLD YOU TO STAY OUT OF THIS, SPIRIT!
AREN'T YOU GLAD I DIDN'T?
WHAT'S THE IDEA, YOU BIG OX?
ASK THEM!
HE KILLED HER, SO THAT SHE WOULDN'T USE HIS LOVE LETTERS TO MAKE HIM MARRY HER!
I KNOW ABOUT THOSE LETTERS!
I'M POLICE COMMISSIONER DOLAN! WHERE DO YOU TWO FIT INTO MISS MEDA'S KILLING?
4


WHY KEEP UP THE FARCE?... I KILLED HER!
NO, NO! ... I DID IT, COMMISSIONER!
WEREN'T YOU IN LOVE WITH HER?
UNTIL I FOUND OUT SHE WAS PLANNING TO MARRY ME FOR THE GAVIN FORTUNE!
MY LETTERS WERE TOO GREAT A THREAT! THE ONLY WAY TO GET RID OF HER WAS--
MY SON'S LYING FOR MY SAKE! IT WAS I WHO KILLED HER, TO SAVE HIM!
I'LL TALK TO YOU ONE AT A TIME! GO INTO THAT OTHER ROOM, SENATOR!
VERY WELL!
ALONE IN HIS STUDY, SENATOR GAVIN ACTS SWIFTLY!
FIRST, MY SIGNED CONFESSION...
NOW, THE POISON...
HE TRIED JEST WHUT YO' SAID HE WOULD, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS!
5


WHY WERE YOU GOING TO KILL YOURSELF?
TO PAY FOR THE CRIME I COMMITTED! THERE'S MY CONFESSION ON THE DESK!
WHAT GOES ON NOW?
ATTEMPTED SUICIDE, DOLAN! THESE GENTLEMEN ARE FIGHTING HARD FOR A CHANCE TO GO TO THE CHAIR!
ALL I CAN DO IS TAKE YOU BOTH TO HEAD-QUARTERS, LOCK YOU UP, AND THEN ---
WAIT!
I CAN PROVE THEM BOTH INNOCENT!
HOW?
WAIT AND SEE! I'VE JUST SENT EBONY TO MISS MEDA'S HOUSE FOR A CERTAIN PIECE OF CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE!

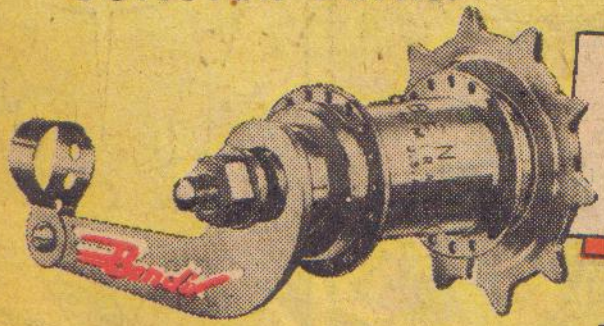

I THOUGHT SO! -- OKAY, SILKIE, THE JIG IS UP! YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO BEAT THE GAME FOREVER!
AFRAID THE REAL STORY WOULD GET OUT, EH? DOLAN, YOU REMEMBER SILKIE SANDERS!
WHAT!? -- PARRY?... WELL, @#@%⅝, SILKIE, YOU BLACKMAILING RAT! AT LAST, WE'VE GOT OUR HANDS ON YOU!
IT'S ALL BECOMING PRETTY CLEAR!... MEDA WAS THE MOLL WHO WORKED THAT SWEET RACKET WITH YOU! AFTER SHE LURED AND COMPROMISED THE INNOCENT RICH BOYS, YOU'D MAKE AN APPEARANCE AS THE INDIGNANT HUSBAND! --AND, OF COURSE, THEY'D HAVE TO SETTLE!
YOU DIRTY @X#⅝%! GLUB-- SPUTTER...
YOU CAN'T TALK THAT WAY TO MY PAL, THE SPIRIT!
THANKS, DOLAN! -- BUT THIS TIME, MEDA WAS GIVING YOU THE RUN-AROUND, EH, SILKIE? SHE REALLY PLANNED TO MARRY BOB GAVIN, AND THAT WOULD HAVE LEFT YOU OUT IN THE COLD! SO, YOU...
NOTHIN' OF THE KIND! --I WAS HER BODYGUARD!
HUH-UH! ... NO DICE! IF YOU WERE THERE TO PROTECT HER, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO CALL THE POLICE! THAT WAS THE TIP-OFF!
THEN THAT CLEARS THE SENATOR AND HIS SON!
OBVIOUSLY! THEY WERE TOO ANXIOUS TO ADMIT GUILT FROM THE FIRST -- PROTECTING EACH OTHER! AND IF MEDA HAD BEEN KILLED FOR THE LETTERS, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN LEFT AS EVIDENCE TO DECEIVE THE POLICE!
WEREN'T YOU A LITTLE WORRIED, EBONY -- BEING USED FOR BAIT?
NOT ME! MAH MIST' SPIRIT WAS LOOKIN' AFTAH MAH INT'RESTS!



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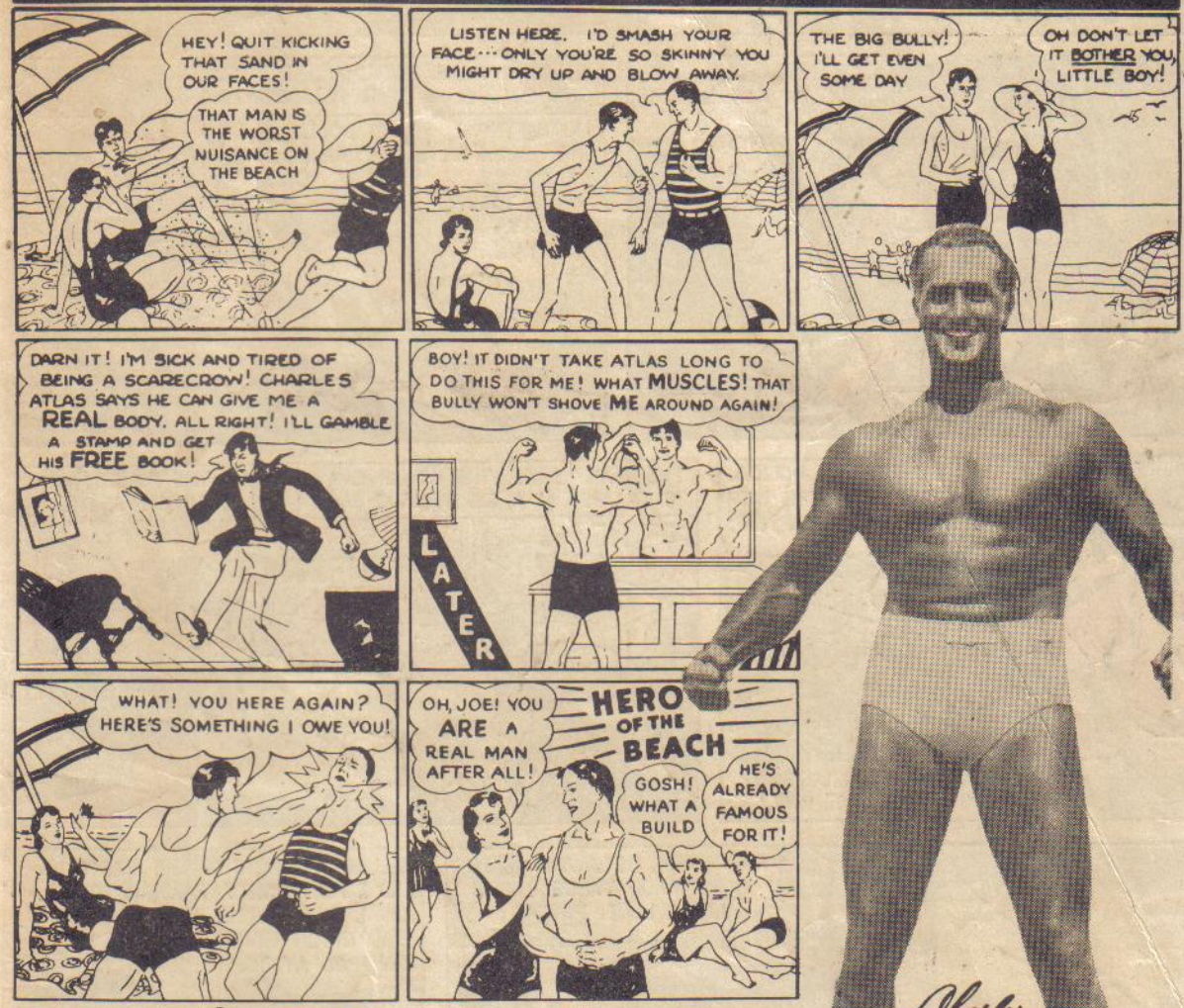


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Charles Atlas

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"U.S." ROYAL WITH HIS JET-PROPELLED BIKE

"OUTWITTING The KIDNAPPERS"

WHEN THEY FIND THAT RANSOM NOTE, I'LL BE SITTIN' PRETTY...

AS DEPUTY U.S. ROYAL AND THE BOYS OF THE ELM CITY BIKE CLUB HEAR POLICE RADIO FLASH...

...KIDNAPPERS LAST SEEN ON ROUTE 22 DRIVING TOWARD SPARTA MOUNTAIN...

GOLLY... THEY'RE HEADING THIS WAY!

COME ON, FELLAS...WE'RE HEADING FOR THE CROSSROADS!

YOU GO GET THE POLICE. I'LL STOP ALL CARS WITH MY SPARK-INTERRUPTER!*

* A SPARK-INTERRUPTER CUTS OFF ALL IGNITIONS BY REMOTE CONTROL!

THE PLAN WORKS...THE KIDNAP-CAR IS TRAPPED IN A BIG TRAFFIC-JAM!

THE POLICE! THEY'VE GOT THE KIDNAPPERS!

FAST WORK, BOYS...YOU BIKERS SURE MADE THESE THUGS LOOK LIKE PIKERS!

POLICE

P.D.

R 22

FELLAS...THE BOYS OF THE BIKE CLUB AND I ARE MIGHTY PARTIAL TO U.S. ROYAL BIKE TIRES. THAT BUILT-IN SKID CHAIN GIVES US REAL CONTROL AT TOP SPEED!

CHAIN TREAD

NEXT ISSUE: TRAPPING A BANDIT!

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